Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-90-146 *30 July 1990*

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Four Countries To Analyze Americas Initiative

PY2707210890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1753 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Brasilia, 27 Jul (EFE)—It was reported here today that Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Uruguay will hold a ministerial meeting in Brasilia on 1 August to analyze "the Americas Initiative" proposed by U.S. President George Bush.

The Brazilian Foreign Ministry reported that Chile's participation in these talks was decided during the meeting held in Brasilia this week between Chilean President Patricio Aylwin and his Brazilian counterpart Fernando Collor de Mello.

The meeting, to be attended by the foreign relations and economy ministers, will take place at the Itamaraty Palace, the Foreign Ministry headquarters.

On 31 July, Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek and Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello will meet with their Argentine counterparts Domingo Cavallo and Antonio Erman Gonzalez to analyze the binational economic integration process.

It has been announced at first that the ministries were to meet in Brasilia on 1 and 2 August but it was then announced that Uruguay will also attend the meeting to analyze the Bush proposal.

During the first working meeting with President Collor de Mello two days ago, Aylwin voiced his country's interest in joining political agreements between Argentina and Brazil any time there are common viewpoints.

Aylwin and Collor also analyzed the prospects of the initiative announced by President Bush in the United States on 27 June.

The Argentine and Brazilian Governments have already discussed this matter during Collor de Mello's visit to Buenos Aires early this month, but they will discuss it again on 30 July when they meet in Sao Paulo State to observe the inaugural flight of the first prototype of the CBA-123 civil plane built by the two countries.

Collor and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez also discussed the Bush proposal during the meeting they held one week ago at the Brazilian-Venezuelan border.

In the joint statement signed by Collor and Aylwin and released yesterday, the two presidents voiced their hope that Bush's initiative will help to free regional trade, reduce the Latin American foreign debt, and increase investments in the region.

They also expressed "their willingness to inmediately analyze the mechanisms" to allow the implementation of these proposals.

Cuba

Havana Confirms Castro Cancellation of Peru Trip

FL2807033990 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0231 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro deeply regrets that he will not be able to attend the inauguration ceremony in Peru, Juan Escalona, president of the People's Government National Assembly, who heads the Cuban delegation, said in Lima.

The possibility that Fidel might attend was discussed up to the last moment, but his enormous responsibilities during these very important times for Cuba led to the decision to send a delegation representing the government, Escalona said.

Luis Alva Castro, second vice president of Peru, said there was no doubt that the possibility our top leader might participate in the ceremony marking the transition of power generated great anticipation in the South American country. He added that there was a very favorable climate in Peru because the nation wanted to receive Fidel warmly. We greatly regret this, but we also appreciate the important delegation the Cuban Government has sent to Lima, Alva Castro said.

Escalona Heads Delegation to Peru

FL2807010790 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Thousands of policemen and soldiers are today patrolling the streets of Lima on the eve of the inauguration of President-elect Alberto Fujimori.

Last night, a group of unknown assailants attacked the Presidential Palace with grenades [words indistinct] in the heart of the Peruvian capital. No victims were reported. The Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement claimed responsibility for the attack in a communique sent to the country's main newspapers.

Some guests invited to the transfer-of-power ceremony began to arrive today. Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora was the first chief of state to arrive in Peru to attend Fujimori's inauguration. Others who later arrived were Patricio Aylwin of Chile, Carlos Saul Menem of Argentina, and Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela. These leaders were all met at the Lima international airport by outgoing President Alan Garcia.

The Cuban delegation also arrived. It is headed by Juan Escalona Reguera, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government. It was welcomed by Luis Alvaro [as heard] Castro, second vice president of the Republic and secretary general of the Aprista Party of Peru and, Senator Armando Villanueva.

Colombian President Virgilio Barco is expected to arrive tomorrow.

Former Prisoners Seek Entry Permits at Embassies

PA2807030390 Havana International Service in Spanish 0107 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Former Cuban counterrevolutionary prisoners have visited a dozen embassies in Havana in an unfruitful attempt to find a country that will receive them.

A spokesman for the so-called Committee of Political Prisoners appointed by the United States recalled that the Cuban authorities have already granted them their departure permits but that no embassy has agreed to complete the procedures for their departure.

The U.S. Interests Section in Havana considers the approximately 700 former counterrevolutionary prisoners common, not political, prisoners.

The spokesman for the Committee of Political Prisoners said that several representatives of the said committee visited the Venezuelan, Netherlands, Mexican, Italian, Argentine, Swedish, British, Swiss, and Spanish Embassies looking for a country that would receive them. The spokesman added that the Spanish Embassy did not even receive the committee representatives.

Some of those prisoners have protested the inconsistent attitude of the U.S. Department of State, which urges them to remain in Cuba to promote actions against the revolutionary government.

Ship's Doctor Reportedly Deserts to Costa Rica

PA2907001990 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2307 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] San Jose, 28 Jul (DPA)—A Cuban doctor, identified as Roberto Castillo, 26, who worked on a Cuban ship, has reportedly deserted recently in Costa Rica and his whereabouts are unknown, it was reported in San Jose today.

According to LA NACION newspaper, the doctor fled the ship called "Golfo de Guacanayabo," which had docked at the port of Caldera on the Costa Rican Pacific coast from 28 June to 24 July.

Castillo disappeared on 17 July when he obtained a permit to leave the ship for several hours, but never returned.

According to the newspaper report, immigration officials did not allow the ship to set sail until the shipping company agreed to repatriate the doctor in case he showed up and did not request political asylum.

The ship was to load fish in Caldera and then sail to Panama and Peru, according to Marvin Jaen from the harbor master's office in the city of Puntarenas in western Costa Rica.

Italian Ambassador's Home 'Voluntarily' Vacated

FL2807121390 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has reported that last night the Cuban citizens voluntarily and unconditionally left the residence of the Italian ambassador in Havana which they had entered last 17 July. They are: Ramiro Alcalde Simon, Idalmis Guerra Esquivel, Ramon Gonzalez Garcia, and Jannette Gonzalez Garcia.

None of these people are holding a job or are associated with any socially useful activity. Ramon and Jannette have served sentences for common crimes. None of them have charges pending against them or are being subjected to any type of persecution. All of them were returned to their respective homes and no penal sanctions will be demanded of them for these acts.

As has been reiterated, the Cuban Government will not grant permission to leave the country to any person who enters by force with that purpose or is sheltered by a diplomatic mission.

[Signed] Cuban Foreign Ministry.

Ortega Interviewed on Sandinist Electoral Defeat

FL2707142490 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1242 GMT 27 Jul 90

["Exclusive" interview with Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, by unidentified reporter in Havana; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Commander of the Sandinist Revolution, have you been able to assess the factors that influenced the defeat [words indistinct] elections?

[Ortega] I would say that the basic factor was the military service which (?took away votes) from the front. We told ourselves, if we lift the compulsory military service we run the risk of not being able to contain the contras on the field. The contras, who were strategically defeated but had a great strength in conducting tactical actions, could group their forces and launch actions in the main cities and become once more a strategic threat to the revolution. In this case, elections would have not been possible and we would have been fighting in the cities against the contras at this time.

In the end, I would say that although the electoral defeat was a blow to the FSLN, the revolutionary project was strengthened in terms of its viability inasmuch as the contras were left without a supporting force. They were considerably weakened before the electoral defeat took place. The contras were left without support with the front's electoral defeat. The U.S. policy was left without support. This facilitated the contras' disarmament in our country. This has been our main goal during all these years. We wanted to neutralize and disarm the contras.

[Reporter] Do you believe that the front will be prepared to achieve victory in the next elections?

[Ortega] I am convinced that the front is at the forefront of the Nicaraguan people. The front is the main political force in our country. You have to take into account that there are some 22 political parties in Nicaragua at this time. The front is the party that is above all these political parties. It has the greatest strength. The Sandinist Front is the top political force in the country. I am also convinced that the front is going to return to the government in the next elections. This is going to strengthen the revolutionary project. We will have a Sandinist Front that has gained experience from the opposition, strengthened from the opposition, gained new strength from the opposition.

I would say that we are living a very rich revolutionary experience in Nicaragua. Of course, it is related to the characteristics of our process at the time fighting began in Nicaragua. In addition, it gives us the opportunity and the space to recover the government with greater strength.

[Reporter] What did the cooperation of Cuban construction workers in house building mean to the Nicaraguan people and, especially, to the Bluefield residents?

[Ortega] This has been the greatest show of solidarity the Nicaraguan people and the people of Bluefield, in particular, could have received. The truth of the matter is that the only consistent and broad contribution made after the disaster caused by the hurricane was the one given by Cuba, in particular, the construction of houses. It was not a matter of going there to build houses just for the sake of it, but taking into account the characteristics of the area. This has been very valued and recognized by the Bluefield people. The Bluefield people were sad about the departure of Cuban construction workers after 25 February. They are asking the Nicaraguan Government to make the appropriate efforts with the Cuban Government so that the construction of houses can continue.

[Reporter] Cooperation continues because we understand there is a medical brigade helping out in the Nicaraguan northern coast.

[Ortega] I talked with Comrade Fidel about this matter. Cuba is willing to continue cooperating with Nicaragua to the extent possibile. I also talked with representatives of the Nicaraguan Government and told them about Cuba's willingness. They are considering a trip to Cuba to talk about the terms of the cooperation and, among other things, about the trade that existed with Cuba. They are interested in maintaining and developing trade.

At this time, when there is an emergency situation in the northern Atlantic coast of Nicaragua, Cuba is the first country responding with a medical brigade that is already working in the area.

[Reporter] Thank you very much, Commander.

Julius Nyerere Holds News Conference in Havana

FL2807183090 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, who is heading the Nonaligned Movement's South Commission, granted a news conference in this capital yesterday. He referred to the speech delivered by our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro on 26 July.

[Begin Nyerere recording, in English with simultaneous Spanish translation] As I was listening to Fidel Castro yesterday—I am getting old, I retired as my country's chief of state five years ago and will retire as president of my party next month—when I listened to Fidel yesterday, I felt that my batteries were being recharged. When I listened to Fidel yesterday, I said: There is only one Fidel. However, a larger number of people in the South will refuse to let themselves be molded. I truly do not think our freedom should depend on the fact of whether or not the North wants to dominate us. This has always been the case of some countries in the North. The important thing is how we are going to react. I believe that a larger number of countries in the South will say no to domination, and if they are determined enough they, including the Cuban people, will win. [end recording]

The South Commission will meet in Cuba on 29 and 30 July. This group is composed of some 30 figures. Its creation was announced during the Eighth Nonaligned Summit held in Zimbabwe in 1986. Its chairman commented on the future work of the commission.

[Begin Nyerere recording] From here, the full commission will go to Caracas where we will issue the report on 2 August. The work of the commission has progressed satisfactorily. We began analyzing the development of the Third World countries. We have reached conclusions and formulated conclusions which will be made public in Caracas in the next few days. [end recording]

Zimbabwean Minister Thanks Government for Aid

FL2707141790 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1401 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Zimbabwean Higher Education Minister David Karimanzira has thanked Cuba for the aid it has provided in that field and advocated an expansion of the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. During a ceremony in Harare to mark the 37th anniversary of the attack on Moncada Barracks, Karimanzira praised Cuba for establishing an educational program through which more than 1,000 young people from Zimbabwe are being educated in Cuba as teachers.

For his part, Cuban Ambassador to Zimbabwe (Eumenio Caballero) said that it is not difficult to understand the true reasons for the traditional American hostility, attacks, threats, criminal blockade, and pressures against our country. The U.S. Administration has been encouraged by international events and has intensified its actions against Cuba, but the Cuban people will know how to defend their gains, the diplomat said.

Castro Attends Reception Hosted by PRC Envoy

FL2807131790 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, last night attended a reception hosted by PRC Ambassador Tang Yonggui to mark the end of his duties in Cuba. During his stay in the country, the diplomat made efforts to strengthen relations between Cuba and China. He also bade farewell to the rest of the Cuban officials and the diplomatic corps accredited to Cuba.

Tang Yonggui began his diplomatic activities here in April of 1987. Since then, he has earned the respect and esteem of the officials of the Cuban party and Government as well as of the diplomatic corps accredited to the country.

Diplomatic Relations Reestablished With Jamaica

FL2707194990 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1933 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] At the United Nations, Cuba and Jamaica today agreed to reestablish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. Relations were interrupted in 1981.

In addition to diplomatic relations, the two governments agreed to promote cooperation in areas of common interest for the benefit of both countries and to work together for international peace.

In a brief press release issued after the documents were signed, representatives from both countries said the purpose of the decision was to ensure the development that has come from the relations of friendship that have always existed between the peoples of Cuba and Jamaica.

Bilateral relations were broken in 1981 by then-Prime Minister Edward Seaga shortly after U.S. President Ronald Reagan took office.

Raul Castro Receives National Vanguard Students

FL2807175690 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Army General Raul Castro, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], has received the 21 people who hold the national vanguard title in the Count on Me Student Labor Brigades [BET] who are visiting Havana.

[Begin Castro recording] Dear BET comrades: It has been a tradition for the BET to play a great role in various tasks in agriculture, construction, and other sectors, including the FAR. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Carlos Perez Alfonso, from the Lucia Inigues Pedagogic School in Holguin, spoke on behalf of the national vanguards.

[Begin Perez recording] We would like to express our most sincere gratitude for inviting us to participate in the celebrations marking the 37th anniversary of the Moncada Barracks attack and for having taken part of your time to be with us. We are the true expression of the young people of the year 2000, the expression of the Cuban youth. Therefore, you can be sure of us and all our young people. It does not matter if there are six or seven individuals in the foreign embassies asking to leave the country when there are 70,000 students who contribute 15 days of their vacation time to contribute to the Cuban revolution. [applause] [end recording]

Trinidad and Tobago

Prime Minister, Cabinet Members 'Under Arrest'

FL2707234690 Bridgetown CANA in English 2253 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 27, CANA—Downtown Port of Spain, the Trinidad and Tobago capital, was in a frenzy tonight, following an explosion in the vicinity of Parliament and police headquarters.

Black smoke billowed from the police headquarters building and gunshots were heard, as young men in dark clothes and toting rifles, ran through the streets toward the Red House shouting to pedestrians to get out of the way.

Parliament was in session, as members, including Prime Minister A.N.R Robinson, debated a corruption motion.

Eyewitnesses said the blast occurred just after 6 P.M. local time and police had since cordoned off the area.

Radio Trinidad, one of the two AM radio stations here, went off the air.

It appeared a dissident group was attempting to take over the government.

Sporadic gunfire was heard around the Parliament building, where the chamber was meeting and the adjacent police headquarters were visibly on fire following an explosion just after 6 pm.

The state-run Trinidad and Tobago Television (TTT) played music videos after the Abu Bakr broadcast and the nightly news, normally broadcast at 7 pm was late. Radio Trinidad, one of the two AM stations here was off the air, while the other, 610 radio was broadcasting.

At [words indistinct] head of news, Jones P. Madeira.

"The prime minister and his Cabinet are presently under arrest," declared Bakr, seated with two armed men behind him. "We are asking people not to be involved in any looting or they will pay the cost," Bakr told viewers.

Bakr spoke with another Muslimeen member next to him. Behind him were the two armed men and the TTT newscaster, Dominic Kalipersad.

"No one has been hurt," Madeira told viewers.

Coup in Progress; Cabinet Members Taken Hostage

FL2707232490 Bridgetown CANA in English 2257 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Report by Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 27, CANA—A radical Black Muslin group was tonight attempting to overthrow the Trinidad and Tobago Government. Jamaat al Muslimeen leader, Yasin Abu Bakr, appeared on television, claiming that his group had taken the cabinet hostage and was now running the country.

No Official Word on Airport; Flights Cancelled

FL2807015490 Bridgetown CANA in English 0141 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] There has been no official word as to whether the Piarco International Airport was open, but at least one airline, American Airlines, cancelled flights, state radio reported.

The full corps of Marines was brought out at the American Embassy in downtown Port of Spain.

Reports said Prime Minister Robinson's bodyguards were sent out of the Red House late this evening stripped to their jockey shorts. Witnesses who were there when they exited, reported the guards as saying everybody inside had been tied up.

Bakr, in an earlier television appearance, said the group had taken Robinson and his cabinet hostage.

'Continued Destitution' Said Motive of Coup

FL2807013090 Bridgetown CANA in English 0108 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Report by Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 27, CANA—The leader of a mostly Black Muslim group claiming to have overthrown the Trinidad and Tobago Government said it had acted because of the "continued destitution" of the country by the administration of Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson.

In his third appearance on state television tonight, Yasin Abu Bakr, head of the Jamaat al Muslimeen, said the government's announcement this week of plans to set up a half-a-million dollar monument in honour of a former public servant was the final straw "which broke the camel's back". "We could no longer take that kind of action from leaders," said Bakr, a former policeman.

The controversial Jamaat al Muslimeen, whose leadership claimed tonight it had overthrown the Trinidad and

Tobago Government, is a group of mostly Black Muslims who live in a commune in St. James, an area just outside the capital, Port of Spain. The radical 10-year-old group, alleged to be financed by Libya, has had several clashes over the last five years with the police. The group accused the police of aiding and abetting crime here, including the drug trade—a charge the police denied.

The death of a young Jamaat member in 1985 sparked a war of words between the authorities and the group, whose leader, colourful ex-policeman Yasin Abu Bakr, appeared on state television to claim the group had placed Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson and his cabinet under arrest.

The group has had a spate of run-ins with the government. It recently offered a supply of pharmaceuticals to the Robinson administration, but the government refused. Jamaat members subsequently joined ranks with the opposition trade union-based grouping, Motion, in criticising the government's actions.

The Jamaat was also involved in an argument with government over land on which the group had tried to build a new school. The incident triggered a court case which ended this week with the Jamaat being told it was illegally occupying the plot.

Tonight's attempted coup against the four-year-old administration of Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson was the second against the Trinidad and Tobago Government. Twenty years ago, at the height of the Black Power Movement, soldiers staged an unsuccessful rebellion threatening the administration of then Prime Minister Dr. Eric Williams.

Bakr, flanked by Trinidad and Tobago television's head of news, Jones P. Madeira and armed guards, sought to assure diplomats and other foreign residents that they were safe.

"We want to assure all members of the diplomatic corps and foreigners that they are safe," Bakr said. "We want to assure the public at large that their safety is assured."

As Bakr spoke, eyewitnesses said armed soldiers were heading towards the Red House, where parliamentarians, including Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson and his cabinet, were believed being held hostage.

Sporadic gunfire continued in the vicinity of the Red House.

State-owned radio 610 read an appeal from the Army urging people in the block around the Red House and the blazing police headquarters to clear the streets.

Eyewitnesses also reported that armed police officers had taken up position on nearby St. Vincent Street.

Rebel Group Said To Be 'In Contact' With Army

PA2807014290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0115 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Port of Spain (Trinidad - Tobago), 27 Jul (EFE)—The Al Muslimi, a Muslim group, today occupied the Parliament where it is holding Prime Minister Arthur Robinson and his government hostage. Rebel leader Iman Yasin Bakr announced this today on the government's television station, which is also under their control.

Meanwhile, Trinidad's official radio station reported that the rebel group, led by a former police officer, had blown up the police headquarters in Port of Spain.

The same source added that the rebel group, which according to the rebels is comprised of 200 or 250 members, is in contact with the Army. However, no further details were offered on this matter.

Three Reported Killed in Shooting at Parliament

FL2807025890 Bridgetown CANA in English 0247 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 27—At least three people, including a member of staff of Parliament, were killed in shooting during an attempt by a mostly Black Muslim group to topple the Trinidad and Tobago Government on Friday night, according to eyewitnesses.

A news reporter, asked to leave Parliament with a group of women, said she had left a tea lady lying in a pool of blood inside. Eyewitnesses also reported seeing at least two people dead in Woodford Square, directly opposite the Red House which houses Parliament.

The reporter, who was covering a debate on corruption in the House of Representatives, said immediately following an explosion at the nearby police headquarters, armed young men burst into the chamber firing their guns as parliamentarians debated the motion.

Meanwhile, Radio Trinidad, which went off the air shortly after the explosion at police headquarters, has resumed broadcasts.

Around 9:55 p.m. (0155 GMT, Saturday), newscaster Eddison Carr read a statement assuring listeners that employees of the privately-owned radio station were safe.

"We wish to assure you that we at Radio Trinidad are under the safe care of the Muslim community," Carr said.

Carr said the Imam (Abu Bakr) had said the "ex prime minister" and members of parliament were under arrest. Carr assured the diplomatic community that they were safe here. Carr said he had been asked to say that the matter was an internal problem. Carr then introduced Muslimeen member, Jamal Shabaz, who said he wished to assure everyone there was no need to panic.

"All the hate and animosity in the nation must stop now," Shabaz said. Shabaz went on to say that people were starving while the government was providing a stone momunment for Jean Myers, a public servant who died at the height of a corruption scandal in the 1980s.

"I call on the police to co-operate....people will no longer starve," Shabaz said. "To all our foreign guests..., the footballers, take it easy, there is no need to panic."

Muslim Group Promises Elections in Three Months

FL2807035090 Bridgetown CANA in English
0322 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Report by Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 27, CANA—Black Muslims who attempted a coup d'etat in Trinidad and Tobago on Friday have promised elections within three months.

Jamat al Muslimeen leader Yasin Abu Bakr, in his latest appearance on state-owned Trinidad and Tobago television, announced "free and fair and free-from-fear elections in 90 days."

It was unclear whether the Muslim group would contest the poll.

Bakr announced the election in an emotional address during which he accused the government of a list of "atrocities" including "frittering away" hard-earned taxes at a time when several people were "hungry and destitute on a daily basis."

The rebel leader described as a "noble act" the reported ouster of Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, whom he said god had "removed."

Army Denies Cooperating With Muslim Group

FL2807035890 Bridgetown CANA in English
0339 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Report by Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 27, CANA—The Trinidad and Tobago Army tonight said it was not cooperating with the Jamaat al Muslimeen, the largely Black Muslim group which claimed earlier to have overthrown the government.

Acting Defence Force Commander Colonel Ralph Brown, apparently broadcasting from a remote (mobile) unit, broke into programming on the Muslim-controlled state TV station to make the Army's position clear and urged the population to stay indoors.

Minutes later, around 10:45pm (local time) Jamaat leader Yasin Abu Bakr, appeared in the Trinidad and Tobago TV (TTT) news studio saying he was in control and promising general elections in 90 days' time.

Bakr went on to read what he called a list of "atrocities" by the what he termed the "ex-government" of Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, said, with his cabinet, to be under arrest following an apparent assault on the parliament which was in session before the uprising.

Eight Hostages Released From Parliament Building

FL2807123790 Bridgetown CANA in English
1127 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Trinidad, July 28, CANA—Five men and three women, including a CANA stringer, were released from the Parliament building here 6:10 AM Saturday—the first known group to be freed since a largely black Muslim sect, armed with guns, stormed the chamber Friday evening and took Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson and other parliamentarians inside hostage.

The eight walked down St. Vincent Street from the Parliament building after the fanatical Jamaat al Muslimeen group, which Friday said it had taken over the country, apparently contacted police and the Army for a cease-fire to release them.

Those released included a television cameraman and CANA stringer Linda Hutchinson, who had been covering Friday's session of Parliament.

The group was released onto a nearby street—the women with hands behinds their heads—and were followed by an unidentified man on a stretcher, picked up by a telephone company vehicle.

Outspoken San Fernando Anglican priest, Canon Knolly Clarke, was seen leaving the Parliament building and then re-entering around 6:35 AM (1035 GMT). Minutes later, Clarke left with a man looking like Planning Minister Winston Dookeran, and a man with a gun. The trio crossed to Sackville Street opposite the ruins of police headquarters. Clarke is a member of the trade union-dominated grouping, the Summit of People's Organisations (SOPO), which the Jamaat al Muslimeen joined.

The final quarter of the old police headquarters building was fully ablaze by 6:40 AM (1040 GMT) having smoked all night.

A group of three women left the building about five minutes later.

State radio said Saturday morning that government backbencher, Leo Des Vignes, had been injured and would be allowed to leave the Parliament chamber.

NBS radio 610 said it had no further details and was not yet able to give a promised 6AM broadcast by Acting Trinidad and Tobago President Emmanuel Carter. The station instead repeated Carter's earlier statement assuring people that the legally constituted government was still in place and to advising civilians to stay indoors.

By 6 AM, armed soldiers and plain clothes police officers were visible on the streets of Port of Spain, their eyes trained on the Red House (Parliament building).

Dawn revealed a sight of billowing smoke clouds over the capital city, as the police headquarters and some business places burned downtown and sporadic gunfire rang out in the vicinity of the red house.

Hospitals reported more than a dozen fatalities, but no accurate figures could be ascertained.

Deputy Prime Minister Asks for International Help

FL2807143890 Bridgetown CANA in English 1421 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, July 28, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's Deputy Prime Minister Winston Dookeran was on the American Cable News Network (CNN) this morning appealing for international assistance to end Friday's coup attempt by a radical group of largely Black Muslims.

"We would like all the international assistance we can get," he declared on CNN, monitored here. He spoke as Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson and several other members of his cabinet remained "under arrest" by the Jamaat al Muslimeen, a small Libyan-supported group inside the Parliament building in Port of Spain.

Dookeran called the coup attemp, which saw at least three persons being killed and the police headquarters being burnt, a "mass kidnapping" by a group of "extremists backed by Libya and other international hoodlums." It was unclear from the broadcast where Dookeran was speaking from.

Emmanuel Carter Appointed Provisional President

PA2807195190 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1843 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Caracas, 28 Jul (EFE)—The Islamic Fundamentalist Jamaat Al Muslimeen group headed by Yasin Abu Bakr, which has held Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Arthur Robinson hostage since 27 July, today appointed politician E. Carter as the country's provisional president and asked that free elections be held within 90 days.

Trinidad and Tobago radio stations cited in the Venezuelan capital reported this.

Yasin Abu Bakr, who appeared before television cameras at 2230 GMT on 27 July, said that he had toppled the government and asked the people to not oppose the coup, or else they would face the consequences.

Acting President Declares State of Emergency

FL2807145190 Bridgetown CANA in English 1432 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 28, CANA—Acting President Emmanuel Carter declared a state of emergency shortly after 1000 AM. Carter appeared in another broadcast interrupting state television's colour bar lines to make the declaration.

The declaration was made under Section 2 (8) of the Constitution. This inhibits the constitutional right of freedom of movement.

State run radio asked people to stay indoors.

In downtown Port of Spain, looting continued. On every street corner, groups of mostly young men stood around looking to see what was happening up and down the square which spans the breadth of downtown Port of Spain.

Every now and again, someone would break into a still unopened shop front and boxes and bags of goods would be thrown out to the gathering crowd who would catch what they could and run with it. In other cases, a jeep or car would pull up at the side of a store, passengers would jump out, take what they wanted, and jump back in the vehicle which immediately sped off.

Carter, who is acting for vacationing head of state Noor Hassanali, also made the declaration on radio at 1030 AM. On a line often interrupted by what sounded like police mobile unit messages, Carter gave his order. Carter said he was invoking Section 4 (1) of the Republic's Constitution allowing the state of emergency to last for any period declared by the president.

Some 22 Reportedly Killed in Coup Attempt

FL2807163690 Bridgetown CANA in English 1610 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 28, CANA—About 22 people were killed in shooting between security forces and a Black Muslim group which is holding Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister A. N. R. Robinson and other parliamentarians hostage, hospital sources said Saturday. Several of the dead were reported to be policemen.

With the Port of Spain General Hospital apparently under pressure, state Radio 610 issued an appeal for doctors and other medical personnel to turn out to help. There were also reports of buildings on fire and looting of shops in the capital city of Port of Spain.

On Saturday morning the streets were deserted except for Army and police patrols which appear to have remained loyal to the elected government.

Acting president of the republic, Emmanuel Carter, imposed a state of emergency even as the rebel Jamaat al Muslimeen led by Imam Yasin Abu Bakr remained in

control of the government radio and television. Bakr appeared on state television saying that charges were to be levelled against Prime Minister Robinson and members of his cabinet, ranging from drug trafficking to rape and the death of a soldier.

"We are at present formulating charges against the prime minister and his cabinet for the murder of a soldier, one Sgt Rogers who died two weeks ago and was buried," Bakr said.

He said that the Jamat al Muslimeen provided medicines for the soldier "but the prime minister and his cabinet refused to release those medicines so that Sgt Rogers could have an opportunity to be treated".

Anglican priest Cannon Knolly Clarke was being viewed as the official negotiator between the rebels and the government. Clarke, who is a member of a group known as the Summit of People's Organisations that includes the Jamaat and trade unions, was seen shuttling in and out of Parliament. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Urges Robinson's Release

FL2807165290 Bridgetown CANA in English 1630 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 28, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's foreign minister, Sahadeo Basdeo, on Saturday told radical Black Muslims that holding Prime Minister Arthur Robinson and cabinet members would not bring a quick improvement to the troubled economy.

"It is no secret that Trinidad and Tobago is currently undergoing a period of economic difficulty which has had serious effects on all sectors of our society," the minister said here.

"... Holding the country, the Parliament and the government to ransom will not bring about any rapid solution to the deep-seated economic problems which we are facing."

Members of the radical Jamaat al Muslimeen on Friday stormed Parliament, seizing Robinson and other parliamentarians.

They also attacked and set fire to the police headquarters in Port of Spain.

The Muslims charged the government with corruption and squandering state funds.

Basdeo said the attack had "inflicted severe damage on our established democratic traditions, and on the image of stability which has been one of our strongest assets and which it is necessary to maintain, if we are to successfully pull out from our present difficult economic circumstances".

He called for the release unconditionally of Robinson and the others held in the Parliament building.

Eyewitness Account of Shooting at Parliament

FL2807192490 Bridgetown CANA in English 1829 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 28, CANA—An eyewitness who was in the Trinidad and Tobago House of Representatives when armed men stormed the building in a coup attempt on Friday night, recalled on Saturday that at least 14 lawmakers were present debating a motion on corruption under the previous administration.

Interim general secretary of the opposition People's National Movement (PNM), Deodath Ojah-Maharaj, said the government benches were occupied by Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, National Security Minister Selwyn Richardson, House Leader Joseph Toney, Planning Minister Winston Dookeran, Health Minister Dr. Emmanuel Hosein, Sports Minister Jennifer Johnson, Community Development Minister Gloria Henry, and Backbenchers Eden Shand, Arthur Sanderson, and Rawle Raphael.

On the opposition side were Muriel Donana-Mc Davidson, a PNM MP, and Kelvin Ramnath, John Humphrey and Trevor Sudama of the United National Congress.

Ojah-Maharaj, one of the last persons to leave the House on Friday, told CANA the group of armed men burst into the chamber shooting and shouting they were only "after" the cabinet, particularly Robinson and Richardson.

The group insisted that people sitting in the public gallery should clear the building. Reporters at the press table were also allowed to leave. Leader of government business Joseph Roney was on his feet contributing to the debate when the assault began. Deputy Speaker Anselm St George was presiding. Mc Donawa-Davidson [name as received] was allowed to leave. Ramnath was also reported to have left the chamber. There were conflicting reports as to whether Attorney-General Anthony Smart was present.

The following is Ojah-Maharaj's eyewitness account given from his north Trinidad home on Saturday:

"We heard knocking on the wall of the Parliament as though someone pelted or shot the wall of Parliament and then it intensified. I don't think that anyone realised it was gunshots.

"People scampered for one of the doors, the one going for where the kitchens are. While people were scampering, the chamber was raided by people shooting in the air and holding guns. They kept shooting in the air all the time and asked everyone to stay down, stay down. They shouted not a man move and they asked for the prime minster and Selwyn Richardson.

"They kept shooting in the air, all the time, all the time. All the chandliers and glass kept falling on us with the spent bullets. They occupied both chambers upstairs and

downstairs. (the public gallery has an upstairs section). They took care to man the entrances.

"The prime minister's security covered him, one of them lying on his belly. They kept strict watch on him. Then they (the gunmen) said ok, ok we have nothing to do with you all in the gallery, all you in the gallery leave one by and one and they started to allow us to leave one by one."

"The shooting kept on all the time. They never stopped shooting. As you walked down the steps, everybody just ran and kept running up Abercromby Street. Women kept screaming.

"It's an experience which nobody would have thought could have taken place in Trinidad and Tobago. People on the street just could'n't believe, up the street—they just stood up. That's about it."

Robinson, Others 'Wired With Explosives'

FL2807190790 Bridgetown CANA in English 1858 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Report by Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 28, CANA—Roman Catholic Archbishop Anthony Pantin, acting as a go-between Muslim leader Yasin Abu Bakr and the public, on Saturday said Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson and cabinet ministers were "wired" with explosives by a Black Muslim group attempting to overthrow the government.

"The situation is extremely serious," Pantin said on state radio after a meeting with Bakr, head of the Jamaat al Muslimeen. "He has informed me that the prime minister and the other parliamentarians in the Red House are wired up with explosives."

Armed followers of Bakr stormed Parliament on Friday night, taking Robinson and other lawmakers hostage. Bakr has seized and turned the state television station into his headquarters.

Pantin said the rebels had threatened to wire members of the Trinidad and Tobago Television (TTT) staff with explosives if security forces attack the building.

"...(Bakr) says that they have been surrounded by people with guns, no doubt from the defence force and he feels that, if they make another attack, that he's going to wire up Mr. Madeira (head of news) and the other members of TTT and everyone will be detonated including himself," the archbishop said.

The threat to blow up Robinson and other parliamentarians is seen as a warning to the Army not to storm Parliament. Pantin said Bakr had reported warning police of the bomb that exploded and destroyed police headquarters on Friday night.

Meanwhile, a curfew took effect in the capital Port of Spain at 3 PM (1900 hrs GMT) under a state of emergency declared earlier by Acting President Emmanuel Carter.

Acting Assistant Police Commissioner Leonard Taylor said on television and radio that a 6 PM to 6 AM curfew would be imposed throughout the rest of the country.

The area in the capital affected by the 3 PM curfew encompasses the Red House, seat of Parliament, surrounding buildings and businesses where an exchange of gunfire had taken place overnight between police, soldiers and the rebel Muslim group.

Taylor said no-one without special permits, except for on-duty police and defence force men, would be allowed to be on the streets during curfew time.

The announcement of the curfew at 1.30 PM gave people in Port of Spain time to reach outside the capital. All but printing staffers at the TRINIDAD GUARDIAN newspaper, located close to the Red House, left the building they had stayed in overnight.

Following the curfew announcement, a soldier who was not identified appeared on television stating that Planning Minister Winston Dookeran and government Backbencher Leo Des Vignes had been released from the Parliament building. He said these ministers and senior public servants were putting "all necessary steps" in place.

"We urge you to stay calm," the officer said asking that people observe the curfew and respond to defence force requests.

Prime Minister Robinson Shot in Right Leg

FL2807225790 Bridgetown CANA in English 2228 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 28, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's bullet-riddled Parliament building remained under siege Saturday as radical Black Muslims threatened to kill Prime Minister Arthur Robinson and other captured ministers. Around the imposing, red-painted building in Port of Spain, armed troops maintained their vigil. [passage omitted]

The Jamaat al Muslimeen, believed to number from 200 to 500 and to receive financial support from Libya, complained Robinson's National Alliance for Reconstruction government had wasted state funds, giving the problem of hunger and inadequate health care a low billing. [passage omitted]

NAR Public Relations Officer Lennox Raphael said there was a constitutionally elected government still in place. This core group was said to be made up of planning minister, Winston Dookeran, Education Minister Clive Pantin, National Service Minister Lincoln Myers, National Security Minister Herbert Atwell, Works Minister Dr. Carson Charles, Junior Industry

Minister Suruj Rambachan, and Backbencher Leo Des Vignes, who was reportedly injured Friday night.

Raphael also named two absent ministers, Industry Minister Dr. Bhoe Tewarie, in the Far East, and Foreign Minister Dr. Sahadeo Basdeo, in Jamaica, but reported to be returning home. Raphael said he was in contact with these ministers.

Meanwhile, the Muslim group and members of the government on Saturday afternoon negotiated over a possible interim government to run Trinidad and Tobago, officials here said. [passage omitted]

Officials told CANA that the interim "cabinet" led by Dookeran and including Education Minister Pantin, was meeting with senior technocrats to discuss a proposal by the Jamaat members at the Red House in central Port of Spain. [passage omitted]

Members of the public gallery who found themselves trapped in the Red House Friday night with MPs held hostage by the Muslim group said Saturday that Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson was shot in his right leg. One witness who remained in the chamber throughout the Friday night and Saturday morning ordeal told CANA it happened after he refused to make a statement asking the police to back off. Robinson and most of his front bench team are still being held in the parliamentary chamber by some 30 Muslims.

Witnesses from the public gallery said Robinson and the other government ministers were being made to sign documents early Saturday morning. They reported that Robinson and some of his cabinet ministers were co-signing documents believed to be their resignations. While it was unclear how serious the injury was, the witnesses said Robinson and the other government ministers were being made to sign documents early Saturday morning. They told CANA that Prime Minister Robinson and some of his cabinet ministers were co-signing documents given to them by the armed Muslim members. One eyewitness speculated that the documents were the resignations of the members of cabinet.

The witnesses, who were told to keep their heads bowed throughout, believed the documents also offered support to Planning Minister Winston Dookeran as the new prime minister.

Soon after the signatures were obtained, South Trinidad Anglican priest, Canon Knolly Clarke, who was acting as mediator brought out the civilians as well as Dookeran and Desvignes. [passage omitted]

The witnesses also confirmed the injury of government Backbencher Leo Des Vignes. Des Vignes had apparently tried to escape when he was shot in his right foot. He was hardly breathing Saturday morning when the visitors were released and carried him from the Red House around 6:10 AM local time. Those who carried him said his untended foot was swollen and very red with a large hole where the bullet had entered.

Agreement Possible; Rebels Ask for Plane

FL2907002590 Bridgetown CANA in English 0008 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Report by Brij Parasnath]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 28, CANA—Muslim rebels holding Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson reached agreement with the Trinidad and Tobago authorities on a cease-fire Saturday, a top police officer reported. The superintendent told CANA Canon Knolly Clarke, acting as an intermediary, had received a document from Acting President Emmanuel Clarke Carter paving the way for the cease-fire.

The officer, who insisted on not being identified, also said that rebel leader Yasin Abu Bakr had asked for an aircraft to fly his supporters to Libya.

The police officer said Catholic Archbishop Anthony Pantin and Anglican Bishop Clive Abdullah have been asked to meet with Abu Bakr at Trinidad and Tobago Television to help work out the deal with the rebels.

Asked to comment on the size of the rebel force, the senior police officer said, "one aircraft would be too small for them." He said it could be a little more or less than 500 persons.

The situation in Port of Spain has remained tense, some shooting going on.

Basdeo To Return Despite Airport Closures

FL2907005990 Bridgetown CANA in English 0037 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 28, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's External Affairs Minister Sahadeo Basdeo was leaving here on Saturday for Barbados en route to his homeland where armed Black Muslims have seized the prime minister and cabinet members. Basdeo, who arrived here earlier this week to attend meetings leading up to the 11th Caribbean Community (Caricom) summit, said that he had been told by some of his cabinet colleagues to return home as soon as possible.

Basdeo said that at least six cabinet members were not among those being held hostage by the Muslim group and that he had been in contact with some of them.

"My understanding is that there are also other members of cabinet who are not being held hostage....," he said.

"They indicated that it is important for me to mobilise support here in the region and to return home as quickly as possible...."

Basdeo said he had no idea how he would re-enter Trinidad and Tobago since the airports there had been closed, but added "we are waiting for further information which may lead me to return home with the greatest expedition."

"I intend to return home as many of my colleagues.... have indicated that the situation was grave but that they felt confident that the people of the country were behind the government," he said.

He described the rebels as a small group of people "who have been a thorn in the side of the government for a while now."

Gunfire, Injuries at Rebels Headquarters Reported

FL2907025090 Bridgetown CANA in English 0222 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 28, CANA—Four people were reported injured on Saturday night during an exchange of gunfire at state-run Trinidad and Tobago Television (TTT), headquarters of the leader of a Black Muslim group which staged a Friday night coup attempt against the government, officials said.

Latest reports indicated an ambulance was attempting to plough its way through police and Army barricades to pick up the four people, including two civilians. The barricades were set up to help enforce a curfew, imposed this afternoon in the capital. State radio called for the ambulance to be allowed access along the roads.

Loyal Troops Reportedly Fire at TV Station

PA2907025690 Paris AFP in Spanish 0149 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Port of Spain, 28 Jul (AFP)—Troops loyal to Trinidadian and Tobagan Prime Minister Ray Robinson, who is currently facing an attempted coup, opened fire today at the building in Port of Spain from where the national television operates. The television station has been under the control of the rebels headed by Yasin Abu Bakr since Friday.

In a statement broadcast over the radio, Jones Madeira, information director of the Trinidad and Tobago state television station, transmitted a call issued by Yasin Abu Bakr to stop the shooting.

According to the source, Abu Bakr also requested the presence of Catholic Archbishop Anthony Pantin to begin negotiations.

A few hours earlier, Pantin said on the national radio that the Moslem rebels—who since Friday have been holding Robinson and some 20 members of his government as hostages inside the Parliament—had placed explosive devices near the prime minister and were threatening to kill him. Two ministers were freed Saturday.

Rebels armed with Soviet-made AK-47 rifles surrounded the Parliament building Saturday, while the Army patrolled the streets of Port of Spain, according to reporters in that city. Apparently there have been no clashes.

Meanwhile, in Washington, radio station WPFW cited reports according to which Robinson had been killed, while the Caribbean Press Agency reported that his left leg had been wounded by the rebels during the kidnapping.

According to Madeira, Yasin Abu Bakr declared that "the shooting in the television building must cease because the hostages could be hit by the gunfire," referring to the television station personnel. "El Iman (Abu Bakr) said that the Archbishop (Pantin) could be escorted by a person to the television studios and then his escort could leave," Madeira said.

The television personnel are being treated well by the rebels, Madeira added, saying: "They are treating us very well. They fed us and spoke with us."

According to the AFP correspondent in Trinidad and Tobago, "the people are happy about the attempt to overthrow the government."

The people are disgruntled, especially because of unemployment, which affects 23 percent of the active population, the reduction in the wages of public workers, the creation of a new value added tax, and the hike in the price of staples, such as electricity or gas, he added.

According to the source, the commercial establishments in the capital remained closed today. In other cities of the country the people thronged to the stores to stock up on staple products.

Newspapers were not published today, television programs were not carried, and the radio only aired on FM.

State Minister Reported Killed 27 July

PA2907040690 Paris AFP in Spanish 0319 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Port of Spain, 28 Jul (AFP)—Yasin Abu Bakr, leader of the black Muslim radical group "Jamaat al Muslimeen," who announced a coup d'etat on 27 July in Trinidad, has requested an aircraft to go to Libya, according to unconfirmed reports which circulated here today.

According to the same reports, Joseph Toney, minister of state in the office of Prime Minister Ray Robinson, was assassinated by the rebels on Friday night and two other ministers were wounded.

In addition, National Security Minister Selby Wilson was reportedly beaten when followers of the "Jamaat al Muslimeen" occupied the parliamentary building and took him and most of his ministers hostage. [passage omitted]

Rebel Leader Announces 'Amnesty Agreement'

PA2907043890 Paris AFP in Spanish 0416 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Port-of-Spain, 28 Jul (AFP)— The radical group of Black Muslims, "Jamaat Al Muslimeen," which announced a coup d'etat in Trinidad on Friday, has reportedly reached an amnesty agreement with the government of Prime Minister Arthur Napoleon Raymond Robinson, one of the rebel leaders has announced over the radio. [passage omitted]

Rebels Say Solution 'Possible' Early Sunday

FL2907093290 Bridgetown CANA in English 0506 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Report by Reudon Eversley, senior editor]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, July 29, CANA—Muslim rebels holding Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson hostage following a coup attempt, have reported that a solution to the one-day-old crisis was possible by early Sunday.

Bilal Abdullah, a spokesman for members of the Black Muslim group holding Robinson and other cabinet ministers inside Parliament, said amnesty including a presidential pardon was a key demand of the small Jamaat al Muslimeen.

"All the principles have been agreed and the final arrangements for conducting the amnesty is being concluded with the assistance of the (Roman Catholic) Archbishop of Port of Spain (Anthony) Pantin and also the Anglican Bishop (Clive) Abdullah," Abdullah told CANA Radio in an exclusive telephone interview from inside the Parliament chamber.

"Canon Knolly Clarke (of the Anglican Church) is in the parliamentary chamber with us and the parliamentarians...and is acting as a negotiator. Mr. Abdullah and Mr. Pantin are meeting with the iman" (Yasin Abu Bakr, the Jamaat leader).

"We are hoping for a total solution to the problem by (Sunday) morning," Abdullah said. "The amnesty has actually been written by the acting president (Emmanuel Carter). (He) drafted a document. We have it in our possession."

"The prime minister read it and has read it over the radio to the commissioner of police and the chief of defence staff and what we are doing now is making sure that ... the wording is acceptable and some of the subsidiary conditions and so on (are agreeable) for enacting the amnesty," he added.

The rebel spokesman said details of the agreement would be broadcast on Sunday.

[Passage indistinct] denied earlier police reports that the rebels wanted to be flown to Libya. "I am a Trinidadian and I want to stay here," he said emphatically.

Abdullah said Robinson had agreed to step down as prime minister as part of the agreement for resolving the crisis. Planning Minister Winston Dookeran would take over as prime minister of an interim administration which would hold office for 90 days pending the holding of general elections.

"The prime minister has signed a letter stating that he has resigned with immediate effect and he has also signed a letter stating that he, along with other parliamentarians present, support Mr. Winston Dookeran as caretaker prime minister for the next 90 days," Abdullah said.

Dookeran is a deputy leader of the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), elected in a landslide nearly four years ago. Dookeran, who was held with Robinson when the armed group stormed Parliament Friday night, was released early Saturday.

Abdullah said the rebels hoped to have members of the diplomatic community witness the installation of the caretaker government.

Robinson was said to be in good spirits, despite a gun shot injury to the leg. Abdullah said the injury was not serious and Robinson had been attended by Health Minister Emmanuel Hosein, a medical doctor.

Abdullah accused "mischievous elements" in the police of attempting to prevent a settlement of the crisis. He, however, said the Army had been "very disciplined".

Speaking later with CANA correspondent Debra Ransome in Port of Spain, Abdullah said there was no truth in the rumour that National Security Minister Selwyn Richardson had died.

He, however, declined to say whether Richardson had been injured at all.

Asked if anyone else was injured in the Parliament chamber, Abdullah said all the hostages were "in good spirits" waiting for the time when they would be escorted from the Red House.

The coup attempt was launched Friday night as Parliament debated a motion dealing with corruption under the previous People's National Movement (PNM) administration. A bomb blast at the nearby police headquarters, subsequently burnt to the ground, occurred shortly before the rebels stormed Parliament.

Jamaat leader Yasin Abu Bakr said the attempted takeover was to protest the continued destitution of Trinidad and Tobago, currently going through a programme of economic adjustment.

It was the second coup attempt in Trinidad and Tobago in 20 years.

Shooting Breaks Out Again Near Parliament

FL2907131490 Bridgetown CANA in English 1258 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Report by Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 29, CANA—Shooting broke out again Sunday morning in the vicinity of the Parliament building here where Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson and some members of his cabinet have been held hostage by a militant largely Black Muslim group since Friday night. Exchanges of gunfire—presumably between police and the Jamaat al Muslimeen—were followed by the sound of heavy artillery and smoke was seen coming from the side of the imposing pinkish-coloured colonial building.

The apparent attack came as government and the rebels prepared to conclude an amnesty arrangement that would have assured the Jamaat a presidential pardon in exchange for the freedom of all hostages. Around the same time Works Minister Dr. Carson Charles went on television to announce that the airport was being reopened for daytime flights. Charles confirmed that the prime minister and his National Security Minister Selwyn Richardson had been injured when the Jamaat stormed the Red House.

On the first night of the seige, the Muslimeen had reportedly forced Robinson and cabinet colleagues present to sign a document abdicating their positions with immediate effect. About a dozen MP's [Member of Parliament] are believed to be still "under arrest" in the Parliament building, where the chamber was meeting Friday to discuss a corruption bill.

Headed by Planning Minister Winston Dookeran, government ministers not caught in the Red House seige and senior local technocrats held a series of meetings which led to the amnesty offer. A spokesnman for the Jamaat told CANA [CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY] Saturday night that the amnesty arrangements were expected to be in place by Sunday morning and would include agreement for fresh general elections to be held within 90 days.

TV News Director Views Situation at Station

FL2907152190 Bridgetown CANA in English 1502 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 29, CANA—Two civilians and two members of a Black Muslim group that attempted a weekend coup in Trinidad and Tobago were injured during a sniper attack on State Trinidad and Tobago Television [TTT] Saturday night, the station's news director, Jones P. Madeira, reported.

"Two Muslimeen members were hurt, along with two guys in the street," the veteran newsman said.

One member of the Jamaat al Muslimeen group, which has taken over the Republic's lone TV station, was "badly injured;" the other suffered "a flesh wound," according to Madeira. The two rebels and the young civilians, passing the building when it came under attack, were taken to the hospital.

The attack on the TV station, which rebel leader Yasin Abu Bakr has virtually turned into his headquarters, came as Muslims guarding the nearby Parliament building were attacked by police.

The Jamaat al Muslimeen stormed the Parliament building Friday, seizing Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson and members of his cabinet. They accused the government of corruption and of wasting state funds while hunger persisted and said they wanted an interim government set up until fresh elections could be held within 90 days.

Madeira said the 26-28 TTT staffers detained in the building had "very tense moments" Saturday as the rebels sought to negotiate a settlement with the authorities. The rebels, he said, expected a major assault on the building and TTT employees felt they could be caught in the crossfire.

"We (TTT staffers) prayed together" at one point, Madeira reported.

He told CANA Radio, the radio service of the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY, that television employees had not been mistreated by the rebels. The Muslims made it clear "we were not the enemies," he said. He said Abu Bakr at dawn appeared anxious to settle the negotiations with the authorities. A senior police officer said on Saturday that the rebels had asked for a cease-fire, an amnesty, and an aircraft to fly to Libya.

Negotiator Delivers 'Finalized Agreement'

FL2907162790 Bridgetown CANA in English 1603 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Report by Debra Ransome]

[Excerpts] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 29, CANA—Negotiator Knolly Clarke, in an armoured vehicle, headed for the rebel-occupied Trinidad and Tobago Television (TTT) station Sunday morning to work out a deal to end the seizure of cabinet ministers and media houses by a radical Black Muslim group. An Army armoured car picked up the prominent churchman at 1120 hours outside Parliament to convey him to the television station.[passage omitted]

As it stopped to pick up Canon Clarke, the green armoured car emitted a stream of bright orange smoke, an apparent pre-arranged signal. Clarke found the side door locked and jumped into the back of the truck which then sped down St. Vincent Street.

Muslimeen at the Red House (Parliament building) in phone contact with CANA [CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY] said Clarke was being taken off to TTT where he will meet with Defence Force Commander Joseph

Theodore and Jamaat leader, Yasin Abu Bakr for what they hope will be the final stage of talks.

Clarke has been given a package of documents agreeing to an amnesty for the Muslim members and the establishment of an interim government. Muslimeen members told CANA that the package had been agreed to by the Muslimeen at the Red House and their captive parliamentarians.

"It's a finalised agreement. It might need final touches with the imam and Colonel Theodore," Muslim spokesman, Kwesi Atiba, said.

Bakr Says Agreement Details Being Worked Out

FL2907181690 Bridgetown CANA in English 1804 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text) Bridgetown, Barbados, July 29, CANA—The leader of a rebel group which has held the Trinidad and Tobago prime minister and members of his cabinet hostage since Friday has described the attempted coup as a family squabble which will soon be amicably settled. Imam Yasin Abu Bakr said his Black Muslim Jamaat al Muslimeen and the Trinidad and Tobago Army had reached a cease-fire and his group was working out the final details of a negotiated settlement to the crisis with the country's acting president, Emmanuel Carter.

"Cannon Knolly Clarke of the Anglican Church is negotiating on behalf of the Jamaat al Muslimeen with the president and some agreement has been signed," he said in an interview with the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY (CANA).

Asked to comment on reports that passage to Libya was part of the Muslimeen conditions, Abu Bakr restated his commitment to Trinidad and Tobago and said the episode was a family squabble which would soon be over.

"What are we going to Libya for; we are all Trinidadians; that's why we are here, that's why we were fighting in any case, because it's our country; there's nothing to do with Libya," he said.

Abu Bakr, who charged the government of Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson with corruption and racism said they were "going to build back our country."

"We have a better feeling of unity, we have a better feeling of morality among all of us. There's a feeling, I think, in the entire country that we were sort of adrift and something had to shock us into reality," Bakr said from the state television studios where he is holding the staff hostage.

His colleagues holding the government members hostage in the Parliament building in downtown Port of Spain shot Robinson in the leg after he refused to sign a document, witnesses said. National Security Minister Selwyn Richardson and government backbencher Leo Des Vignes were also injured by gunshots.

"I feel the country will be better off for (the experience). I mean, nothing has happened as compared to global events, you know," Abu Bakr said. "A bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the Japanese have rised back after a couple of years and are on top of the world."

He described as "malicious propaganda" statements that the Muslimeen were financed by Libya's Mu'ammar Qadhdhafi.

"We have been to Libya. Colonel Qadhdhafi is our friend but we have also been to other Arab countries. We've also been to other countries. I myself have been to America, to England, to France, to Germany, to Rome. I've been all over the world; I am a missionary," he declared.

He said there was a total cease-fire since 6 PM local time Saturday and things were returning to normal with flights from the international airport, the essential services working, and the nurses returning to hospitals.

"All is well at the Red House (Parliament). There has been a great spirit of compromise between our members and Mr. Robinson and some of the parliamentarians," the rebel leader remarked.

"This situation has given us a chance to see each other not in our public role but with our humanitarian qualities and there's a great spirit of compromise being felt at the moment by all concerned," he said.

"Hopefully, the country will be back on its feet in a couple days," he said.

Asked if Robinoson was wired with explosives to deter a military attack on the Red House, Abu Bakr said: "I am at TTT (Trinidad and Tobago Television). I couldn't tell you that."

And questioned whether things could return to normal with his followers allowed to operate without fear of harm, he alluded to the Geneva Convention governing war criminals.

"Can you compare this little small twin island of Trinidad and Tobago with what happened in the two World Wars? And did not the people return to normality," he asked?

Police Commissioner Warns Against Looting

FL2907185590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1827 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 30, CANA—As looting and arson continued in shops in this capital city, acting Trinidad and Tobago police commissioner, Leonard Taylor, on Sunday warned citizens against plundering and advised that people found on the streets at the wrong time or disobeying lawful directions could be hurt.

"It is intended to take stronger measures and measures which will certainly be injurious to some citizens but certainly our aim and the target is to prevent lawlessness and law and order breaking down in the country," Taylor said.

One leading businessman who contacted the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY, pondered whether the police had the manpower to control the situation in light of their preoccupation with the prime minister and members of his cabinet, being held hostage in Parliament by Black Muslim militants, and a similar situation with the staff of the state television station.

The businessman said that despite a curfew most stores and shopping malls had been pillaged as the looting and fires spread to the industrial area of the island's east-west highway and residential districts.

He said an estimate of at least 200 million TT dollars (one TT dollar = 23.5 U.S. cents) in looting and fire damage so far was conservative and suggested the police needed help from Caribbean countries in the area of protective services.

Commissioner Taylor appeared at 1240 PM (1640 GMT) stating that the police were working to bring under control the problem which he said had been widespread over the last 24 hours.

"Police and Army have been working round-the-clock assiduously and harmoniously to bring this situation under control," Taylor said.

"However, our best efforts have not provided the desired results."

He said that as a result it had been decided by the Army and the police to take a "course of action which will be in the public interest." He asked people to keep off the roads, to comply with lawful directions, and to follow all curfew times.

Anglican Bishop Clive Abdullah also made an appeal on state-run radio 610 for an end to the looting. Abdullah said he understood that people were using convoys of vehicles to load up large items such as fridges and videos.

"At this time, so many of our other citizens are in a great deal of crisis," Abdullah said.

The Anglican head asked for people not to take advantage of the situation. He said he could understand hungry people looting for food but he could not agree with people loading up goods such as fridges and videos in convoys.

Violence Widespread as Agreement Awaited

FL2907231590 Bridgetown CANA in English 2301 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Report by Debra Ransome]

[Excerpts] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 29, CANA—The street outside THE GUARDIAN newspaper's office looks like part of a ghost town as Muslim rebels and the Trinidad and Tobago authorities negotiate an end to the seizure of Prime Minister A. N. R. Robinson and cabinet members.

Occasionally, a soldier gripping an Italian-made rifle walks by, a grim reminder of Friday's take-over of the nearby Parliament building, the state television station and a privately owned radio station.

At State Trinidad and Tobago Television (TTT), church leaders have been trying to finalise a deal that would bring freedom to Robinson, a lawyer-politician who has been prime minister since late 1986.

The black Muslim group, the Jamaat al Muslimeen, reported early Sunday that a solution to the crisis appeared imminent.

Bilal Abdullah, a spokesman for the group, said amnesty including a presidential pardon was a key demand of the rebels.

"All the principles have been agreed and the final arrangements for conducting the amnesty is being concluded with the assistance of the (Roman Catholic) Archbishop of Port of Spain (Anthony) Pantin and also the Anglican Bishop (Clive) Abdullah," Abdullah told CANA Radio in an exclusive telephone interview from inside the Parliament chamber.

But an expected early announcement of a settlement failed to materialise.

As this capital city waited for news on the talks, tension persisted with continuing looting and a police warning of tough action for breaches of the curfew and plundering. [passage omitted]

Among the businesses hit by fire are the Fernandez Rum Company.

Grell Taurel, a major distributor firm selling from foodstuff to clothing and hardware was among those looted.

The computer firm CCS [expansion unknown], Hi-Lo Supermarket and businesses at West Mall were ransacked by looters, who stole items including grocery trollies, mannequins and jewellery.

There are persisting reports here of a thriving black market in stolen goods on the outskirts of Port of Spain.

Outside the Red House, where Robinson remained held hostage with members of his government, soldiers hung around on corners eating and drinking their supplies or simply strolling up and down, gripping rifles.

By 1800 hours local time no word had come from the area around Trinidad and Tobago Television where the negotiations were continuing over an amnesty offer by

government which reportedly had gone down well with the Jamaat al Muslimeen but not so well with the armed forces.

Sources close to the negotiations told CANA that the outstanding issues being thrashed out were the legal terms in which a presidential pardon for the Muslimeen had been framed, the government's requests for the Muslimeen members to lay down their arms during the armistice period, and concern over the attitude of sections of the protective services towards the negotiations.

Talks Stall; Rebels Blame 'Dissident' Policemen

FL3007112590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1116 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 30, CANA—Black Muslim rebels holding members of the Trinidad and Tobago cabinet hostage in the Parliament building here since Friday claimed Monday that talks towards an amnesty solution to the crisis have been stalled because of an outbreak of shooting from what they called "dissident" police officers.

Bilal Abdullah, main spokesman at the Parliament building for the Jamaat al Muslimeen told CANA [CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY] by phone that the group had requested the help of the Army when stepped-up shooting broke out in the early hours of Monday.

"These firings are not by the Defence Force.... not by senior police.... They're by a group of police.... We know them and we are seeing them fire.... We know them," Abdullah said.

"They continue to be the biggest impediments," he added.

Abdullah said a cease-fire to ensure the release of the hostages and the safety of Jamaat members was one of the key points still up for negotiation, but conclusion of the talks was being delayed by the firing which stopped after 5 AM.

Asked why talks had stalled, Abdullah said "because of the actions I would describe as dissident policemen.... Affecting communication with negotiators."

Heavy firing had been reported in the vicinity of the Red House (Parliament building) under cover of night after 1AM.

A spokesman for government officials outside of Port of Spain declined to speculate on a time frame for an end to talks aimed at freeing the hostages, including the Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson. The public relations officer of Robinson's ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) Lennox Raphael, said he was in contact with Cabinet ministers outside Port of Spain co-ordinating negotiations and they reported that talks were at a "decisive point."

Raphael said around 7AM Monday that there was no truth in rumours here that American troops had landed on the island as the seige situation in central Port of Spain moved into its third full day.

Hospital Officials Confirm 9 Dead, 145 Injured

FL3007121190 Bridgetown CANA in English 1150 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 30, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago hospital officials have confirmed nine deaths from the bloody coup attempt which started here Friday, but feared that there were more bodies on the streets.

An official at the accident and emergency department told CANA [CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY] that nine bodies had been brought in during the last three days, (and) "I have had word there are more outside." He said witnesses claimed they had seen bodies lying in parts of the captial where shooting had taken place between police, Army, and members of the Jamaat al Muslimeen who, since Friday, have been holding as hostage Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson and some members of government. Hospital officials had earlier estimated the death toll at 22. The official said 145 injured people had been brought in during the three days—believed to be mostly what the official called "law men."

The hospital gave this breakdown of injury admissions: Friday night—36: 40 on Saturday morning, 23 on Saturday afternoon, and 46 on Sunday. The body of a dead woman was brought in Sunday after the 6 PM curfew deadline by police officers who told hospital administrators she had been found dead in the road.

Some 21 doctors and nurses and 12 porters came out over the weekend to man the unit—about twice the size of the usual department staff.

Rebel Spokesman Claims Basic Agreement Reached

FL3007144590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1416 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 30, CANA—Black Muslim rebels who last Friday seized Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson and some members of his cabinet, said Monday they had reached a basic agreement with the government for ending the hostage crisis. Kwesi Aiba, a spokesman for the Jamaat al Muslimeen, which has been holding Robinson and his colleagues in the Parliament building apparently wired to explosives, told CANA [CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY] that a heads of agreement [as received] had been concluded following lengthy negotiations and the two sides were now working out the mechanisms for handing over the hostages.

Foreign Secretariat Answers Thornburgh Statement

PA2807045290 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0359 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Jul (NOTIMEX)—Regarding the statements made by U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh, the Mexican Foreign Secretariat stated tonight that the note issued by the Mexican Government requesting the extradition of Antonio Garate and Hector Berrellez "is intended to prevent the recurrence of incidents that violate internal legal order."

A Foreign Secretariat communique states that these violations have consistently hindered both countries' efforts in the struggle against international crime, and especially against drug trafficking.

The Mexican Foreign Secretariat adds that each time the two governments have negotiated the norms by which that cooperation should be regulated, the Mexican Government has repeatedly stated that the two countries' authorities must abide strictly by the laws of their corresponding countries and has emphasized that there is no reason to fight illegal activities with measures that end up being equally illegal.

The full text of the Mexican Foreign Secretariat communique follows:

Regarding the statements made by U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh on Wednesday, 25 July, relating to the request made by the Mexican Government concerning the arrest leading to the extradition of a DEA agent and a DEA informer involved in the abduction of Dr. Humberto Alvarez Machain, the Mexican Foreign Secretariat makes the following observations:

1. Far from wanting to harm the existing bilateral cooperation with the United States in the struggle against drug trafficking, the note sent by the Mexican Government requesting the extradition of Antonio Garate Bustamante and Hector Berrellez is intended to prevent the recurrence of incidents that violate internal legal order and that have consistently hindered both countries' efforts in the struggle against international crime, and especially against drug trafficking.

2. Every time the two governments have negotiated the norms of conduct under which this cooperation is to be conducted, Mexico has invariably insisted that the authorities of both countries strictly respect their respective legal orders, emphasizing that there is no sense in fighting illegal activities with measures that are just as illegal.

3. The accused parties in this case were obliged to use the official channels and legal means in Mexico so that Dr. Alvarez Machain was duly subjected to Mexican justice, in view of the commitments of juridical cooperation that are currently in effect between the two countries in this issue. Instead, they chose means that are considered crimes under our law as well as under U.S. law. These are precisely the actions that, when taken to replace bilateral cooperation, affect it and hinder it.

4. Mexico has strictly applied the dispositions of its juridical order for all those who are involved in the murder of the DEA agent. Therefore, it has carried out an investigation that led to the arrest, trial, and sentencing of 23 persons charged in the homicide, who are serving sentences in the prisons in our country. To this date, there are 19 persons still pending trial.

5. The Government of Mexico cannot accept violations of its juridical order, regardless of who commits them, in the same manner that the U.S. Government requires respect for its laws.

The Foreign Relations Secretariat reiterates the political willingness of the Government of Mexico to cooperate with the U.S. Government in fighting international crime, particularly against narcotics trafficking, based on mutual respect and the relations of friendship between the two countries.

Judicial Police Arrest 2 Alleged DEA Informers

PA2807040290 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0254 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Tijuana, 27 Jul (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican State Judicial Police (PJE) reported today that PJE officials arrested alleged DEA informers Alfonso Garibay and David Gomez, who were holding a couple hostage in the city of Tijuana.

In a communique, the PJE states that Sebastian Garzon and his wife Maria de Jesus Allar had been illegally held in a house in the Tenochtitlan neighborhood by the DEA informers to pressure the couple's son, Hugo Martinez, into surrendering to them.

The alleged DEA informers confessed that they had been working as DEA informers for a year and that this had been their first mission in Tijuana.

The alleged informers stated that Hugo Martinez is wanted because of his links with U.S. drug traffickers. The informers were planning to send Martinez to the United States to put him on trial.

Salinas Sends Congratulations to Peru's Fujimori

PA2807200290 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1919 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Jul (NOTIMEX)—Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari today sent a congratulatory message to Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori on occasion of that country's independence anniversary.

In his message, Salinas de Gortari stated that "on behalf of the Mexican people and myself I am pleased to send to your excellency cordial congratulations on occasion of the anniversary of Peru's independence."

Finance Secretary Announces Agreement With Norway

PA2907160590 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0206 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Jul (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Finance Secretariat reported that the government signed an agreement with the Norwegian "Guarantee Institute for Export Credit" (GIEC) for the reorganization of approximately $14,000,000 of the Mexican foreign debt.

This new agreement is signed in accordance with the agreements signed by the member countries of the Paris Club on 30 May 1989, whereby Mexico is allowed to defer payments for $2.6 billion to those countries.

The Finance Secretariat reported that the term for reorganization is 10 years, with a six-year grace period, and the applicable interest rate is favorable and under the market's rate.

The negotiation with the GIEC is applicable to certain debts the Mexican Government has contracted with that organization and will cover payments on the capital due between 1 June 1989 and 31 May 1992.

This agreement is also applicable to payments for 100 percent of the overdue interests between 1 June 1989 and 31 March 1990, 90 percent of the overdue interests due between 1 April 1990 and 31 March 1991, and 80 percent of the interests due between 1 April 1991 and 31 May 1992.

The Finance Secretariat announced that this is the seventh agreement made from the negotiations with the Paris Club.

Nicaragua, Honduras on Economic Stability Program

PA2807184690 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] The Honduran and Nicaraguan Governments have displayed a great deal of interest in the economic stability program that is under way in Mexico. Within the next few days, a group of distinguished Honduran economists will visit Mexico to observe and study what Mexico is doing in the field of economic stabilization. Nicaragua's Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo is already in Mexico.

Lacayo pointed out that once again Nicaragua will be receiving Mexican oil, now that the San Jose pact between the two nations has been reactivated. Questioned prior to his return to Managua, Lacayo, who headed a large delegation of economic specialists, said that during his visit, Nicaragua's $1 billion debt with Mexico was examined. Nevertheless, the Nicaraguan delegation's attention was also drawn to the Mexican Government's economic reforms.

[Begin Lacayo recording] We wanted to see what Mexico had done and how it had managed to establish a model that we consider successful because it has given Mexico considerable stability. [end recording]

Concerning the recent violence in Nicaragua, Lacayo confirmed that the reprivatization of lands that are currently held by peasants is one of the measures that President Chamorro plans to carry out.

[Begin Lacayo recording] The program does not call for government employee salary cuts, so that has never been at the core of the crisis or of the strike. However, there are divergent points of view concerning privatization. [end recording]

The Honduran Government has requested the guidance of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's administration to set in motion an economic stabilization program that will control Honduras' high inflation. During a meeting between Honduran Economy Minister Ramon Medina Luna and Mexican Commerce Secretary Jaime Serra Puche, the Honduran official acknowledged the unity and solidarity displayed by all of the social sectors in Mexico which have participated in the economic effort.

El Salvador

Cristiani Discusses Human Rights Agreement

PA2707202590 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1715 GMT 27 Jul 90

[News conference by President Alfredo Cristiani with foreign and local reporters and unidentified moderator at the Presidential Palace in San Salvador—live; brodcast in progress]

[Text] [Cristiani]... will then turn to a period of questions and answers about the significance of the results of this round of the dialogue in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Everybody knows that an agreement was reached on the subject of human rights, which was signed early yesterday morning. Many are even familiar with its text. However, I would like to underscore some important points of this agreement.

First of all, I want to acknowledge the fact that there was in some way a possibility of reaching a consensus with regard to a topic that is so important to Salvadorans—that of human rights—and concerns the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. In one of the introductory paragraphs of the document, it is stated that the FMLN has the capacity and desire and—what is more important—that it undertakes the commitment to respect the attributes inherent to human beings.

We feel that this is a positive step. This is the way we construe and interpret this regarding the FMLN—namely, that it is assuming this commitment at this moment, particularly because, for the first time during the peace efforts in our country, we have been able to reach an agreement on a substantive matter. This also makes us feel somewhat optimistic because the process is moving forward, because the process continues marching on, and because there is indeed a possibility of continuing to reach agreements to achieve the peace we Salvadorans long for so much.

It is also important to underscore points one and two of this document. I believe, due to certain remarks I have heard through the media, that the goals of these points have not been fully interpreted. Perhaps there is some confusion concerning when the agreements will go into effect. Points one and two—and I will read them because they are, perhaps, the fundamental part of the agreement—are to be implemented immediately by both sides.

Point One states: All of the necessary actions and measures will be immediately implemented to avoid all incidents or practices that are threatening people's lives, integrity, safety, and freedom, and also to erradicate all disappearances and kidnappings. Priority status will be given to the investigation of cases such as these, and to the identification and punishment of the persons guilty of their perpetration.

Point Two states: The full guarantee of personal freedom and integrity requires certain immediate measures to ensure the following, and it outlines six important points referent to captures, the manner in which captures are carried out, who is authorized to carry out captures, and also concerning other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of human beings.

We think that it is important not to be confused about the fact that these agreements will begin to be implemented at the time of signing. The only matters pending after this signing begins—or takes place following an agreement on ending the armed conflict—are other topics that are developed in the agreement. However, the main topic is the installation of the verification commission by the United Nations. It is only logical to realize that it will not be until then that a mission will come here to carry out the verification work in our country.

I must also stress that point one and two of these agreements must also be heeded by all sectors of our society. This is the right moment for making respect for human rights our everyday topic, with all Salvadorans involved. This will help find that atmosphere of reconciliation that is needed so that even El Salvador may someday find a true and fruitful peace. In other words, this should not only be a commitmment involving the FMLN and the government; this commitment should be made by all citizens no matter what sector they may belong to.

We believe that this agreement is very positive. You are familiar with the Geneva Agreement, which has three objectives: The first one is to promote democracy in our country and the second one—which by the way was included at the request of the Salvadoran Government—is to fully respect human rights in our country. We believe that this boosts one of the three basic objectives of the Geneva Agreement. Therefore, we feel quite optimistic right now, especially because of the importance of the agreements reached in Costa Rica.

Despite this agreement, yesterday morning, after we had signed it, a bus carrying civilians was straffed. We would like to believe that this happened too soon—before the FMLN had a chance to adapt to this agreement. However, these actions and attitudes must end, and we urge the FMLN to immediately instruct all its members to avoid breaking this agreement signed in San Jose, Costa Rica—of course, not only that type of action, but all the actions the FMLN has been carrying out in the past that violate the inherent rights of the individual. We want to say that the real winner in these agreements are the Salvadoran people. Violence in our country sometimes seems a way to resolve things. We believe that if all sectors commit ourselves to implementing these agreements, the Salvadoran people will have won much by wiping out this violence and gaining respect for our fellow men, especially here in El Salvador.

That is is why we do not agree at all with some of the things said, such as: this agreement causes sadness, is

insufficient, and is disappointing. I believe that those who have said this should remember all the mothers who have lost their sons and all the wives who have lost their husbands. I believe that those who said this should ask the wives of the officers who were cowardly murdered recently whether this agreement is disappointing or not. The rights of the individuals are very important and essential for the development of a democratic, peaceful, and harmonious society and life. That is why we do not agree at all with some of the things said about this agreement. We hope that it is because it is not yet understood and it has not been properly digested to see its scope. We have also noticed there has been some confusion, as if this agreement were not for immediate implementation, when in fact it is.

I repeat, I believe that we must congratulate the commission here with us this morning. They worked hard for several days and nights to reach an agreement in which the great winner is the Salvadoran people. With this I end and [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Good morning, Mr. President. We would like to know, in concrete terms, what commitment the FMLN made regarding human rights?

[Cristiani] It has promised to avoid all acts or practices that may make attempts against the life, integrity, safety, or freedom of individuals, and to eradicate the practice of disappearances and kidnappings, and in point... [changes thought] It has promised everything, obviously; I am just pointing out the points included in the agreement. It has promised not to carry out captures, in quotation marks, although the legal term is only applicable to those who have the legal right to do so.

I think when it is said that they assume a responsibility and promise to respect all the attributes inherent to a human, we must look to see what affects a human in this country. In general terms, the FMLN has promised to respect all the rights of a human that can affect this human, for example free transit. A paragraph exists farther down in which, even in the more intense conflict areas, there is a promise to allow the free transit of all persons, and that also means a farmer who has been restricted from going to see his property because there is too much violence there. The FMLN has promised to respect his free transit, as well as his life, safety, integrity, etc. Seen from the point of view of what the inherent rights of a human are, the FMLN has clearly promised to respect them.

[Moderator] Mariano Galan of PRENSA GRAFICA. Mauricio Funes of "Al Dia."

[Funes] President, I am curious about the context of the negotiations and what is not contemplated in the San Jose agreement on human rights. It is that a deadline has been set to meet again, with the promise that the next topic will be the Armed Forces. Given the information we have received, we have the impression that there are two completely opposed positions. On one hand, the government insists on a kind of modernization of the Armed Forces. On the other hand, the FMLN is insisting very hard on topics such as purging, military impunity, etc. Will there be enough time for the government to review the point of the Armed Forces, or should we understand, as General Larios said when he read the minutes at the Legislative Assembly, that a position exists in which the staff has closed ranks and does not accept the topic of purging, as the FMLN proposed.

[Cristiani] First, we must be clear about the fact that the government presented a document in Costa Rica in which it answers point by point all the proposals made by the FMLN in Mexico, and that thanks to the fact that the FMLN apparently leaked the document—it even appeared here in a national newspaper so it is not possible to tell any lies—you can see there are answers to all the points proposed by the FMLN.

However, we must remember the following: It has been said that this is a process of dialogue and negotiation of the points, and in this sense: Does the FMLN seek to impose its points, or does it want its points to be negotiated? That would be the first question. It would appear that there is some sort of inflexibility on that issue. In Costa Rica, the FMLN did not agree to having the intermediary seek points of rapprochement on the topics, considering that there are replies to each one of the points raised by the FMLN on that topic. In that sense, I think that on analyzing the government document, one can see that the points are broached in depth. In some cases [corrects himself]... in no case can we accept that the government is inflexible on this topic or has not wanted to contribute regarding the topic of the Salvadoran Armed Forces.

Therefore, I believe it is necessary to analyze that position, which, I repeat, is already public. It was published almost in its entirety in a newspaper, and we can see that the points have been answered.

Regarding the purge, ever since the Mexico meeting we have told the FMLN that if they have concrete and supported points, we are ready to analyze those cases, but we are not willing to fall into a strategy in which all they do is destroy the Armed Forces' structure and thus allow the possibility of fueling the FMLN's militarist ambitions.

I believe that we must delve into aspects of reality. In this sense, the defense minister has said that the Armed Forces are permanently seeking to improve professionalization. What it has done is to purify or to purge its ranks, leaving intact those members who remain in line and in keeping with the mandate of the Armed Forces of the country. It is important now to make this clear to those who, perhaps, without an example, cannot appreciate in its true dimension the process that has continually been followed by the Armed Forces.

During the last few years—from 1984 onward—the Armed Forces internally has retired or sent to the corresponding courts in the case of criminal acts over 200 officers who have committed abuses and more than

1,000 troops for the same reason. It therefore cannot be said that the Armed Forces do not maintain a permanent purging process.

That is why the topic must not be broached subjectively, but objectively, always seeking to modernize, professionalize, and purge the Armed Forces. That is the sense that the Armed Forces gives to this topic.

[Reporter] Mr. President, my question is as follows: The FMLN addressed a public letter to you. During a news conference they referred to the fact that several weeks ago you said you had given the order for the search of the UCA [Central American University] on 13 November. I am going to read one of the points...

[Cristiani, interrupting] [Words indistinct]?

[Reporter] I have a question regarding Point One, which says that if you were capable of hiding the truth for seven months, the argument is that you must know much more about it. What can you say about this letter?

[Cristiani] In the first place, the letter attempts to lay a smokescreen over something. I want to state clearly that I have always been, am, and will continue to be at the orders of justice, for whatever contribution I can make. At no moment have I concealed absolutely anything. Also, what I mentioned on that opportunity when we met with you was that a procedure had been adopted because searches conducted of some religious institutions were creating problems. The Armed Forces High Command issued instructions that, whenever it involved certain establishments, authorization should be obtained for the search from the Armed Forces High Command. In this sense, several search orders were issued wherever there was any suspicion of terrorist activity during the offensive. One of them was the Catholic University. In that case, the High Command, in my presence, authorized the search. As to who gave the final order, that escapes the High Command. I spoke of having given the authorization, not the direct order to conduct the search. That is something totally different. I am explaining this again, because apparently there are certain mistaken concepts in regard to this. Second, the FMLN is merely strategic. It is seeking some sort of proposal or parallel strategy. This does not bother me, because I feel totally free of everything. I have tried to cooperate.

We have tried to carry out an investigation on this case, and we have even been congratulated by international investigation organizations. I believe we have fulfilled our duty by trying to make justice prevail in the Jesuits' case. In any case, I believe that the FMLN is only trying to play a game with that letter.

[Moderator] Julio Rodriguez, Radio Cadena YSU.

[Rodriguez] Mr. President, I would like to ask one question. It is foreseen that the Armed Forces issue will again be discussed during the next meeting. If the discussion on this...

[Cristiani, interrupting] The Armed Force?

[Rodriguez] The Armed Forces.

[Cristiani] There is only one Armed Force in the country.

[Rodriguez] All right, then if the problem on this occasion was that the proposal—according to the FMLN—had no substance, will it be written differently or will something be added to make it more specific?

[Cristiani] We agreed that the UN secretary general's representative will start a mediation process and try to close the gap between the positions, and this was stated in Costa Rica. The FMLN is trying to imply that the document lacks substance, but, since the document has been publicized, I leave it to those who will analyze and study it to decide if it lacks substance or not. We think that the document presented by the Government in Costa Rica on this topic has a lot of substance. We believe that this is not a matter of accepting their whims; it is a negotiation with a mediator.

I suggest that the FMLN not obstruct the mediator's work in this case and let him find the ways to close the gap between the two positions. In my opinion, there are many points that are identical to the ones proposed by the FMLN, and if anyone reads the FMLN's proposal in Mexico and the government's proposal in Costa Rica, he will see that there are even two or three topics out of the four topics that are practically identical.

[Moderator] Javier Najarro from Cadena de Oro.

[Najarro] Mr. President, let us look at the way points one and two of the agreement—which should be implemented immediately—will be put into practice. How do you plan to implement those two points? The High Command and the Armed Forces officers may be aware of their content, but how is that content going to be disseminated throughout the country and among the rest of the Army troops and Civil Defense members so that they know how to proceed when they make an arrest, etc?

[Cristiani] The governmental human rights commission is preparing a dissemination campaign. The Armed Forces are following regular procedures to release the content of this agreement to the officers. In addition, the Armed Forces are informing members of the significance of the topic and scope of the agreement signed in San Jose.

We began this process yesterday. In addition, I think it is important that all the Salvadoran people are familiar with the agreement and the rights they have as Salvadorans so they may watch the enforcement of these agreements in any eventuality.

However, we have been taking the necessary steps since yesterday to make it clear that this is a commitment, that the government intends to comply with this commitment, and that all elements within the government must do everything to prevent these violations from occurring in our country.

The government of the republic follows a policy of permanently trying to prevent all sorts of violations of human rights. However, I repeat, what is important in this agreement is that it stresses the importance of this matter and that it applies not only to the government, but to all Salvadorans, who must fully realize how important it is to achieve reconciliation and peace in our country. So, yes, all steps that we think are necessary and advisable are being taken.

[Moderator] Nelson Lopez from Radio Sonora.

[Lopez] Mr. President, yesterday and today the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] and the MNR [National Revolutionary Movement] expressed their views that very little was achieved during these talks, or negotiations, and MNR leader Dr. Ungo has said, for his part, that we have apparently moved from a low-intensity war to a low-intensity negotiation. He said also that this matter of pardon and forgiveness really means a return to the Duarte era. What can you tell us about this?

[Cristiani] To begin with, nobody has ever said, after 10 years of conflict, that the matter of seeking peace is an uncomplicated matter or that it would be an easy task. To me, what is important is to try to see if at some point in the past—and this includes the time when some persons who are legally active in politics now were part of the opposition—progress of this kind was made so that this may now be regarded as insignificant.

Second, other groups that have made statements regarding the agreements occupied the same position that my government occupies now, and I ask them whether they ever made the progress we have made in this negotiation process. Furthermore, I want to ask all the politicians who are underestimating this agreement: Who does not consider the human rights problem an important issue? Why are they then saying this is not an important agreement?

The negotiation process is not an easy one. It is complex and difficult. There are certain attitudes and situations we must overcome. However, this is the first time the two sides have reached an agreement. The round of talks is moving forward and the process of negotiation is moving on. And insofar as we get rid of the taboo that it is impossible to reach significant agreements, we will reach agreements in a faster way in the future.

Since the PDC and the MNR are members of the interparty commission, I would urge them to make an effort to expedite all agreements on electoral matters, because this will help us advance more rapidly and make it possible to reach agreements.

I repeat that we are pleased to see that, for the first time, we have reached a substantial agreement. Obviously, unlike those who have tried to criticize the agreement, I think that an agreement on the human rights issue, and especially under the circumstances we are currently experiencing, is extremely important and significant. We must implement this agreement throughout the country, and we must ensure that the violence and all our experiences of the last 10 years will cease to exist.

I sincerely believe the political parties may be trying to use this whole thing in a partisan way, or to see who profits and who does not profit from it. This is regrettable, because when we first talked of making an interpartisan effort, I said—and I have always said this—there should not be winners or losers here. The sole winner has to be the Salvadoran people if peace is attained. In this respect, I would dare recommend my political colleagues in the opposition to try to see this matter under a positive light and to help this effort, albeit complex and moving slowly. Everybody wants it to end. They should not try to disparage it, because for the first time in our history an agreement on substantive matters has been reached. I find this attitude totally unreasonable. Far from it, they should say: One of the topics is pretty well defined, and an agreement exists so let us try to get other topics moving.

Let us hope the FMLN will accept mediation in the issue of the Armed Forces. Let us hope the interparty commission will reach a consensus on the electoral issue. They are working on the subject of the administration of justice. That is the type of attitude they should have; they should not say that such issues are not important. Frankly speaking, I am a bit disappointed to hear there are still some persons who think human rights are not important.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Cristiani] On the issue of forgive and forget, we said that in all peace agreements—including international agreements of which El Salvador is a signatory—amnesty is a part of the peace agreement. That is the government's stand, and you can read it in the 24 July edition of LA PRENSA GRAFICA.

We have explained our stand on that specific issue. I believe it has been a basic aspect in all the peace agreements that have been signed in all countries of the world. I do not see why it is now said that this should not be the case here, as if it were something bad.

There are international commitments that specify that should be the case when a conflict is to be solved. I do not really see what the problem is. I believe there are various interpretations. Many times it is better not to say anything when one is not really well informed or perhaps has not been able to analyze things as they are.

This morning, another opposition politician said that what was being done was the worst possible thing because it paved the way so that everyone could be killed knowing there was an amnesty. That is why points one and two of this agreement are to be enforced immediately. I feel it is irresponsible to bring this up at a time when we should be discussing other matters.

[Moderator] Alberto Gomez, from ACAN-EFE.

[Gomez] I would like to ask you if your government is willing to accept the immediate participation of the UN Verification Commission, such as some people's organizations and opposition political parties are proposing, even though some nongovernmental humanitarian organizations have announced Armed Forces violations of human rights have increased.

[Cristiani] We would not have any problem with that, but the UN representative also said there are still many steps to follow before a verification mission can be installed. On the other hand, there must also be an adequate atmosphere for working, so we will not be bogged down in a confrontation between members of the Armed Forces and terrorists.

In other words, we must realize that the UN representative is the one who made the proposal of how the verification mission should be formed. There are certain reasons why he proposes that.

We have no problem with their coming here to verify the human rights issue. Furthermore, for the last 10 years, the United Nations has been sending a rapporteur to the country—who comes here, year after year—to watch over the situation and monitor what has happened.

Furthermore, I would ask those groups who say there has been an increase in violations to remember the UN resolution and read it, so they will see what is actually happening and not politicize the issue.

That is another advantage of the agreement: A topic will not be politicized. We are all aware of the way this has been used by many sectors. On the contrary, we are happy that this agreement will be verified. We always uphold a respect for human rights. Complying with this commitment allows an additional element in, such as what is given to the verification commission.

We like the idea of objective people coming to verify these commitments and the observance of human rights. We feel this will benefit us.

[Moderator] Maria Cortina from NOTIMEX.

[Cortina] Good morning, Mr. President. It has been said that the issue of the Armed Forces will be the first point to be discussed at the upcoming meeting. Can it be anticipated that the meeting will begin by discussing any proposals presented by the mediator to break the stalemate on this issue?

[Cristiani] The government commission in San Jose fully agreed to have the mediator make an effort to search for rapprochement, after listening to the various positions on two different occasions, in Mexico and in Costa Rica. We agreed to that, but the FMLN disagreed.

[Moderator] We have the last question, in English, by Ricardo Clemens from VISNEWS.

[Clemens] [Words indistinct] what are the prospects the government sees regarding this [words indistinct]?

[Cristiani, in English] We think there are various positive aspects regarding the agreement reached on human rights in San Jose, Costa Rica. It is the first time since any attempt was made toward peace in El Salvador throughout the last decade. It is the first time that there is an agreement on a substantive issue such as human rights. Second, I think that another positive aspect is that the FMLN says that it has the capacity, the will, and that it assumes the compromise to respect the human rights of the Salvadoran people. Third, we feel that the agreement is also important because in two of its first subjects the application is immediate, and therefore we can start seeing less violence in our country, with respect to what has been happening throughout this last decade. I believe that this also shows that the peace process is moving forward, that it is possible to reach agreements, and that, hopefully, those agreements will be reached sooner than later.

[Moderator] Thank you very much, Mr. President. Thank you, members of the commission, and thank you, journalists, for attending this event.

Defense Minister Defends Government's Offer

PA2807184890 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[Text] General Humberto Larios said today that a law on general amnesty, or a full stop law, which the government has proposed during the talks with the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], would be a good means for achieving peace in El Salvador. The defense minister said that it is up to the negotiating parties to decide if the law will exclude some special cases that involve violations of the laws but that the guerrillas describe as exemplary.

[Larios] *There has to be reconciliation in our society. The people's interests have to be harmonized with those of others. We must strive to find a rational and civilized solution to the armed conflict. This is a proposal that is intended to solve a conflict that has gone on for approximately 10 years. Therefore, if a suggestion has been made to exclude some cases and handle them separately from the full stop proposal, well, I think that will also result from the current talks, which are part of this process. It would be very premature to adopt positions at this moment on matters that are currently under discussion.*

Gen. Larios said that the government and the FMLN maintain conflicting positions at the meetings in Costa Rica. He described this as natural and normal. The defense minister said that even though the stalemate at the meetings has been provoked by the issue of the Armed Forces, the military will continue supporting the dialogue.

[Larios] *The Armed Forces are determined to achieve peace. The problem of the Armed Forces, as a state institution, is to contribute to furthering our government's*

political position in order to achieve peace. Peace is the hope and aspiration of our people, and we are not an exception. We are a uniformed part of the people and we want peace just like all other Salvadoran citizens.

Therefore, our position is not an institutional position. It is a position of strengthening our government's political position, and it transcends our institutional, personal, or collective interests.

However, Larios said that the insurgents will not impose their will during these peace talks.

[Larios] *We cannot talk about the FMLN imposing its criteria or will. Absolutely not. Our institution is a legitimate institution, a state institution. We obey very clear mandates that are embodied in the Constitution, and we have our own legislation to that effect. We cannot violate our own legislation independent of whether the FMLN likes it or not. In this regard, we think that there will have to be many more talks and that positions will have to be evaluated much more deeply. Naturally, we, as an institution, will continue to entertain, maintain and support the positions we have been defending up to this moment.*

The defense minister went today to the Legislative Assembly together with other military officers to render the annual report of work done by the portfolio he heads.

Merino Says Agreement Through Dialogue Possible

PA2907034590 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[Text] Vice President Francisco Merino said this Thursday that it is possible to reach agreements through dialogue in spite of difficulties. He said this in reference to the agreements on human rights reached with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] in Costa Rica, with the support of the United Nations.

Merino said that ways have been found to make progress on the pacification process. He said that issues the two sides find feasible should be discussed first, and the difficult and conflictive issues should be discussed later.

[Merino] *You can see that it is possible to reach agreements through dialogue. The Armed Forces issue was discussed first and this blocked everything. This issue does not take validity or legitimacy from the dialogue process, but now a formula has been found to make progress. There are seven different issues. The logical and suitable course of action is to first discuss issues on which there is already agreement, and to set aside issues on which the positions are contrary and distant.*

I want to tell you that the work commissions of the FMLN and the government have made much progress in other issues. I also want to tell you that Costa Rica is the permanent headquarters for these meetings, the meetings are to last eight days, and the next meeting will take place on 17 August. All these facts will allow us to keep track of the progress that has been made, not only in the human rights field, which has been pretty much covered already, but on other important issues, such as the strengthening of the country's judicial system, the economic and social system, and of course the Armed Forces issue, which we will have to resolve and on which we will have to reach agreement also.

Regarding the Armed Forces issue, the vice president said that the institution has mechanisms to purge its bad elements, and these mechanisms will have to be accepted by the FMLN.

[Merino] *We have to continue making efforts to reach agreements on concepts. Purges take place automatically because of the mechanisms that exist in the armed institution.*

Institutionality cannot be broken. The government has been clear: We are not negotiating the existence of the institution. Self-purging mechanisms are already being implemented and members of the institution who have violated the law are being punished.

The moment will come when the FMLN will have to accept the fact that the military institution has mechanisms and that it is being cleansed, not only of people who have committed crimes, but also of elements who have neither the qualities nor the capability to remain in the Armed Forces.

Merino, who is also a leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, admitted that the human rights of people opposed to the government have been violated during the 10 years of war. He emphasized the importance of the signed agreements to be verified by the United Nations.

[Merino] *The citizens must feel happy with these agreements. In the past, undoubtedly, the authorities committed abuses, different kinds of abuses, including murder and insults, against citizens for the simple sin of disagreeing with the government politically. Let us recall that in the past it was common practice to persecute people for political reasons. These agreements include specific clauses to guarantee that no citizen can be deprived of his freedom or hurt physically if he has not violated the law.*

UN verification will have to be effective. The agreements have two cycles. Some will be implemented immediately after the agreements are signed, and others will be implemented the moment the cease-fire goes into effect.

The FMLN will have to adopt an adequate attitude, because the United Nations will witness how the agreements are being complied with.

Interviewed during a reception for reporters, Vice President Merino said he is satisfied with the results of the dialogue in Costa Rica because it will enforce respect for human rights in El Salvador in the framework of constitutional guarantees.

Recent Clashes Result in 48 Casualties

PA2807040890 Paris AFP in Spanish 2148 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Jul (AFP)—According to government and rebel reports, clashes between the Salvadoran guerrilla movement and Salvadoran Army troops during the last 24 hours have resulted in 48 rebel and Army casualties.

The Armed Forces Press Committee reported that six guerrillas were killed and a soldier was wounded during clashes near La Reina, a town in northern Chalatenango Department.

One soldier was killed and two elite Bracamonte Battalion soldiers were wounded today in San Jose Guayabal, northeast of San Salvador.

While reporting on the war activity carried out in various parts of the country on Thursday, 26 July, the clandestine Radio Farabundo Marti asserted that the government forces sustained a total of 38 casualties.

According to reports confirmed by the victim's relatives, on the night of Thursday, 26 July, unidentified men shot and killed Retired Colonel Roberto Ramos. The Armed Forces, however, denied that Ramos had ever served in the Army. The attack was carried out in the southwestern part of San Salvador.

In another attack that has not been claimed by any group, Alberto Polanco, a local employee for the group of U.S. advisers in San Salvador, was seriously wounded.

Paper Publishes FMLN Letter to Cristiani

PA2807230890 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 27 Jul 90 p 24

[Letter from the General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, to President Alfredo Cristiani; dated 26 July]

[Text] El Salvador, 26 July 1990

Dr. Alfredo Cristiani:

You admitted before the media that you authorized the order to search the "Jose Simeon Canas" Central American University (UCA) on 13 November 1989, and that the order was issued by Chief of Staff Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce.

Pressured by the developments and circumstances surrounding the Jesuits' case, you have revealed an element that you had kept secret and is essential to establish responsibilities in the Jesuits priests' assassinations.

By ordering the search, you and the High Command took a decisive step in the chain of decisions and orders that led, three days later, to the Jesuit priests' assassinations.

Independent of the final results in the police and judiciary process regarding this case, your political responsibility, Mr. Cristiani, has been established with these statements.

The responsibility of Col. Ponce and all the High Command members was defined from the beginning when it was accepted that the Armed Forces committed the crime while acting under their orders.

Your tardy public confession makes the following conclusions evident and unavoidable:

1. If you were capable of hiding for seven months the truth about your responsibility in the search at the UCA, there are sufficient grounds to believe that you know much more, even everything about the decisions made and those who planned and carried out the brutal massacre.

2. It is well known that you were in permanent session with Col. Ponce and the other High Command members during our November 1989 offensive, that the national radio and television network imposed by your government in those days had your authorization, and that the network repeatedly linked Father Ignacio Ellacuria and his fellow clergymen with the FMLN and issued an appeal for their extermination. Now you admit you authorized the search, the mission of which was, in reality, to gather the necessary information to carry out the military operation of the massacre.

These events, along with your links and conduct, show that you are, at the least, a suspect in abetting this crime.

3. The trust invested in you as interlocutor in the dialogue process and negotiation has been greatly eroded because of your own conduct. Your credibility is crumbling, and this can irreparably damage the process toward a political solution and peace.

You are duty-bound to cooperate unreservedly toward the prompt solution of the crime against the Jesuit priests by telling the court and the public absolutely everything you know, and you must convincingly explain your own responsibility in the decisions and orders regarding this case.

You would thus make a highly important contribution to the enforcement of justice and the attainment of peace in our long-suffering homeland.

This is your unavoidable obligation.

In any democratic country, you and the other members of the Armed Forces High Command would have been asked to resign.

FMLN General Command

Deputies, Parties React to San Jose Agreement

PA2907004090

[Editorial Report] San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish at 0300 GMT on 27 July carries a seven-minute report on the Salvadoran political parties' and deputies' reaction to the human rights agreement signed in San Jose, Costa Rica by the Salvadoran Government and Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN.

The station announcer reports that while the Authentic Christian Movement welcomed the San Jose agreement with optimism, National Conciliation Party Deputy Hugo Carrillo said that there is nothing new in the agreement signed by the two delegations.

The station announcer goes on to report that, before signing the agreement, the opposition deputies warned about "the danger of the meeting ending without specific progress toward paving the way to peace." Now that the document has been signed, the announcer says, reactions within the legislature have been widely divergent.

Authentic Christian Movement Deputy Guevara Lacayo said: "I believe that the human rights agreement is a step, a very firm step, because the agreement itself states that it will go into effect at the moment of a cease-fire. Therefore, both sides are agreeing that there will soon be a cease-fire."

The leader of the Christian Democratic Party, PDC, faction reacted as follows: "I believe that the human rights commission should function beforehand, because the human rights problem cannot be set aside until after the weapons have been disposed of or there is a cease-fire."

National Conciliation Party Deputy Hugo Carrillo, concerned that the exacerbated language used so far could encourage both sides to resort to military means, was rather sceptical. He said: "The rhetoric used by the FMLN and the other side will not allow us to achieve peace. We must not forget that the language used in speeches at times helps and at other times hurts."

Meanwhile, the announcer says, the PDC downplayed the importance of the human rights agreement. The party's Fidel Chavez Mena said: "We are disappointed and saddened over the results of the negotiations process in Costa Rica." The station announcer quotes another PDC deputy named Chevalier as having said that the party expects increased violence in El Salvador. Chevalier said: "The statement that in the future there will be an amnesty that will pardon all of the crimes perpetrated up to that point is an opening for all right- and left-wing terrorists to take advantage of the opportunity to get rid of their adversaries."

The station announcer goes on to say that during a meeting in downtown San Salvador this afternoon by National Union of Salvadoran Workers leaders, they said that the agreement between the government and FMLN is positive. They feel that the agreement to request the creation of an international organization to supervise the fulfillment of respect for human rights paves the way for future achievements in other areas, including the military.

An unidentified Salvadoran Workers Union leader said: "With this agreement there is at least a point of union between the sides, and this is very beneficial. Let us await the results that will emerge once again in Costa Rica starting on 20 August."

The unidentified labor leader also said: "There may be many human rights commissions in El Salvador and many great agreements, but if the Armed Forces' impunity does not end, the human rights commissions will not be able to take anyone to trial."

FMLN Accused of Human Rights Violations

PA2907045090 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 25 Jul 90 p 4

[Text] The office of the deputy defense and public security minister has sent us news bulletin number 32, which reads as follows:

"The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorists continue to destroy property and place in grave peril the lives of Salvadoran families, which violates the most elementary human rights.

"The FMLN recently detonated several explosive devices, causing damage to the home of Hilda del Carmen Cerna Molina on 49th South Avenue, the home and car of Jose Roberto Juarez on 6th Street, the home of Osar Balazar Rodriguez in the La Sultana neighborhood, the Pinturas Protecto store on Gerardo Barrios Street, and the home of Manuel de Jesus Garcia Portillo in San Antonio Abad.

"These actions are nothing short of human rights violations that must be denounced before international organizations, especially those that oversee compliance with man's sacred rights. These actions must be punished to the full extent of the law.

"Public Security, as an integral part of the Salvadoran Armed Forces, reiterates its support for the government's peace efforts so that the Salvadoran people can enjoy full democracy and freedom, within the constitutional framework of the republic, because the FMLN terrorism, murders, and destruction are not the ways to attain peace."

Human Rights Groups on New Agreement

PA2907134990 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 26 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] Nine humanitarian organizations that are members of the Permanent Committee for the National Debate on Peace (CPDN) said today that the human

rights problem cannot be solved as long as agreements on the Armed Forces are not reached.

The humanitarian organizations, which include the Committees of Mothers of Political Prisoners, Missing and Murdered People, the Archdiocese's Legal Assistance Office, the Christian Legal Aid Office, and the nongovernmental Human Rights Commission, held a news conference to express their concern over human rights violations.

Isabel Hernandez said that agreements on human rights are worthless if in El Salvador no agreements are reached regarding the Armed Forces, which are the main violators of human rights.

As is known, during their negotiations in San Jose, Costa Rica, the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) agreed on a number of measures to improve the human rights situation.

Among other things, they agreed to request the creation of an international verification commission after a cease-fire is established. They also agreed that arrests can only be ordered by the proper authorities and must be carried out by properly identified officials with arrest warrants.

Miguel Montenegro said that everyone is aware of the violations committed by the Armed Forces through massacres and individual assassinations. The members of the nongovernmental Human Rights Commission said they are the target of political persecution.

However, despite the criticism, the representatives of the humanitarian organizations viewed as positive the creation of the international commission. However, they added that it should begin working before a cease-fire is established.

Deputy Luis Angel Lagos of the National Conciliation Party (PCN) said that the human rights problem cannot be solved as long as an agreement on the end of the conflict is not reached.

'Significant' Reduction in Rebel Action Expected

PA2907142390 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Colonel Mauricio Vargas, Armed Forces delegate to the dialogue commission, has said that the San Jose agreements will lead to a significant reduction of the guerrilla movement's military actions. However, Vargas admitted that the government also committed itself to guarantee some civil rights that have not been fully guaranteed thus far.

The military chief said that the San Jose agreement commits the two sides to avoid all kinds of actions or practices threatening people's life, integrity, and freedom. According to Vargas, this commitment will lead the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] to implement a progressive reduction of its operations because of the human costs that its actions entail.

[Begin Vargas recording] The agreement talks about people's safety and integrity; therefore, I think this progress in the peace talks is a significant phase in the process. The violent actions must decrease and be reduced to an almost imminently military field in order to bring relief to the Salvadoran civilian population. [end recording]

According to Vargas, the agreement focuses the rebel actions around a strictly military field. According to him, the first point of the document will lead to the suspension of guerrilla actions against the civilian population.

However, the document also concerns government commitments. The country's authorities are committed to guarantee freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and freedom of the press.

[Begin Vargas recording] We do not mean to say that our country, our democracy, and our system have worked perfectly well. We have made mistakes, and we have to correct those mistakes. [end recording]

With those statements, Vargas hints that the mere fact of having to reach an agreement to guarantee civil rights that are already included in our Constitution shows that some of them are not fully guaranteed and that the people should demand that all these rights be completely guaranteed.

Rebel Radio Reports FMLN, Army Clashes

PA3007035190

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 1200 GMT on 28 July broadcasts a five-minute report on clashes between Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, guerrillas and Salvadoran Army troops.

"On 27 July," the station announcer reports, "in clashes that took place between 1000 and 1500 in the (La Flecha) and La Mora hamlets in El Zapote Canton, jurisdiction of Suchitoto, Cuscatlan, the FMLN inflicted 12 casualties on the Bracamonte Battalion. Six soldiers were killed and six wounded."

The station announcer goes on to report that the FMLN commemorated the 37th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada headquarters in Cuba with a successful operation in Guazapa called "Long Live Socialist Cuba." At dawn on 27 July the FMLN attacked a Bracamonte Battalion artillery unit in the northern outskirts of San Jose Guayabal in Cuscatlan Department. The announcer says that during this operation one helicopter was seriously damaged, two soldiers were killed and six wounded, and one artillery weapon was partially destroyed. The FMLN also seized an M-16 rifle, a knapsack, ammunition, and other war materiel.

The station announcer also reports that at 1500 on 27 July FMLN forces ambushed 1st Brigade troops near km 11 on the northern trunk highway, inflicting on the brigade "at least 10 casualties, including dead and wounded."

Human Rights Group Blames Armed Forces

PA2707194990 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 25 Jul 90 p 2

[Text] The independent Salvadoran Human Rights Commission [Cdhes] today presented to the news media testimonies of human rights violations that once again implicate members of the Armed Forces. Cdhes members denounced the Armed Forces' military and paramilitary structures practice of abducting people.

The accusation was based on the arrest of a young man, Angel Sebastean Lico Matozo, by Military Detachment No. 7 [DM-7] troops. Sabastean was accused of collaborating with the guerrillas and of belonging to the MPSC [Social Christian Peoples Movement]. His relatives said that the military authorities have denied making the arrest, although witnesses say Lico Matozo is being held at DM-7's jail. Lico Matozo was arrested on 3 March near Ahuachapan's central market. Cdhes reported having testimonies of individuals held at the same jail who claim they heard the soldiers interrogating Lico Matozo. The human rights group also denounced the arrest and disappearance of Mauricio Adalberto Cerna, Milton Mauricio Chachagua, and Raul Majico, based on information provided by an individual who was arrested and later released. The relatives of the missing are asking the military authorties to hand the prisoners over to the courts to establish whether or not they committed a crime.

Guatemala

Army Accused of Violating Human Rights

PA2607152190 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 21 Jul 90 p 9

[Text] The attorney of the Human Rights Commission has stated that, based on a study carried out from January to June this year, the country's security forces—specifically the National Army, the National Police, and the Civil Self-Defense Patrols—have been accused of violating human rights. The media has reported on the cases listed in the study.

The statement issued by the attorney expresses the true national situation, with crime being a common day occurence and with members of the country's security forces sometimes being involved in crimes that undoubtedly are the result of actions controlled by commanders of those two institutions.

If we look at the period that begins with the inauguration of Christian Democratic Party President Vinicio Cerezo, we realize that during this long period, the security forces have committed many violations, many of which have been reported by the media.

This means that, in spite of efforts that supposedly are made to reduce the number of human right violations by changing police commanders, the situation has changed little. Perhaps it has not changed, and the Guatemalans continue to endure abuse and arrogance from those who represent the law but ignore it.

Those pointed at as violators of human rights are again, in theory, showing signs that they want to put an end to the abuse by the authorities. All that can be done is hope that this becomes a reality, because we have to learn to live with democracy and to respect each other—otherwise, the world will continue seeing us as a country of cannibals that endures all sorts of prohibitions and that deserves to be punished and to stop receiving aid from friendly countries for continuing with its human rights violations.

We are practically on the final stretch of the general elections for a government that should represent the poor people. All of us must contribute, for the sake of peace and concord, to the establishment of an atmosphere of mutual respect so that the elections may take place in the framework of peace and calm.

We know that all the social, political, and economic sectors of Guatemala want a situation of respect for human rights, especially now when the citizens need freedom to elect the authorities that will govern them as of 1991.

This is why what the attorney said is important. The concern of the authorities in charge of security should be turned into really effective actions. There should not just be offers, as has been the case in the past.

Rios Montt Condemns Attack on Campaign House

PA2807235190 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2253 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—General Jose Efrain Rios Montt, former Guatemalan president and current presidential candidate, condemned today the dynamite attack that was carried out by unidentified men on his campaign house, and he reiterated that "even if they shoot at me, I will run for president" in November's elections.

The device went off, without causing victims, on the night of 26 July at the offices of the Guatemalan Republican Front (FRG), which, along with the Democratic Institutional Party (PID), the National Unity Front (FUN), and the Democratic Party of National Cooperation (PDCN), all rightist, supports Rios Montt's candidacy.

The general, who ruled the country between 1982 and 1983 after a coup d'etat against General Lucas Garcia,

told ACAN-EFE that this attack does not intimidate him and that "even if they shoot at me, I will run for president."

A constitutional clause that bans de facto government leaders or leaders of a coup d'etat from running for public office weighs upon the general's candidacy.

Gen. Rios Montt said: "This attack and the threats on my life will not stop me from running for president, and only by killing me will they be able to stop me."

The former president said that if the responsible persons are caught, the full force of the law should be applied to them in order to establish a precedent of the "current government's capacity for controlling delinquency" before turning over the presidency in January 1991.

The attack on the FRG offices is the second attack on offices related to the retired general in less than a month. On 13 July a bomb was thrown at the Church of "The Word," of which Rios Montt is an active member.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the two attacks.

URNG Threatens Action If Repression Continues

PA2907022890 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0129 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Jul (NOTIMEX)—The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] warned the government today that if it does not stop "the repression and the terror against the people," the organization could renew its military actions.

During negotiations it held in Madrid with the Guatemalan Government and political parties, the URNG agreed to suspend its sabotage activities and to respect the elections process that will culminate with general elections in November.

During the Madrid meeting, Guatemalan political leaders assumed the commitment of convoking a constituent assembly next year.

In a communique broadcast by local radio stations, the URNG denounced an alleged "increase in repression" against the civilian population of Guatemala and pointed to the possibility of renewing its military activities.

The rebel group stated in its communique that "the wave of repression and terror growing in Guatemala is creating favorable conditions for those who want to return to the past."

The URNG urged the political parties to speak out about the situation in the country. It noted that those who "remain silent and do not condemn the increase in repression and the abuses being committed against the people are not being consistent with commitments acquired" in Madrid.

According to the rebel organization, "the militarization of society generates terror and systematic repression, and the URNG will fight impunity, abuse of power, and corruption."

Extrajudicial Executions Reportedly Increase

PA2907150190 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 27 Jul 90 p 4

[Text] Assistant Human Rights Attorney Cesar Alvarez Guadamuz described as alarming the current wave of violence in the country, noting that at least 80 extrajudicial executions have taken place in less than 22 days, according to statistics kept by his office.

Alvarez Guadamuz expressed concern over the intensification of violence in the country to the detriment of the Guatemalans' human rights, while authorities are doing nothing to counter this grave problem.

Alvarez Guadamuz said that based on statistics, there were 163 extrajudicial executions from 1 January to 28 June of this year.

He also said that since 29 June there have been 80 extrajudicial executions, which shows a sharp increase in the number of such executions in such a short time.

Alvarez Guadamuz appealed to the pertinent authorities to put an end to these acts of violence and to give the necessary protection to Guatemalan citizens.

Honduras

President on Labor Union, Tela Conflict

PA2807184990 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras in Spanish 1145 GMT 26 Jul 90

[News conference by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas with unidentified reporters at San Pedro Sula on 25 July—recorded]

[Text] [Callejas] I came to meet with the labor unions to learn of their concerns and to analyze if it is advisable, appropriate, and timely, for me, as president of the Republic, to participate in this complex situation between the Tela Company and the Sitraterco [Trade Union of Tela Railroad Company Workers]. Bearing this in mind, I freely talked to them with goodwill and understanding. The next step is to meet with the company representatives to hear their side of the problem. I will try to meet with them some time tonight or tomorrow. After that, if circumstances allow, I will meet again with both parties to see if they will grant me the possibility of settling the conflict through a presidential decision.

If conditions are not favorable, it would not be advisable for me to become involved because it would close the last executive resource for settling this labor conflict.

My presence here is mainly to listen to the two parties and to see if we are able to settle the problem.

[Reporter] These problems have occurred before and no definitive solution has ever been found. The procedure was to let things stand. Is the same thing happening with you now? Can the people have the same concern as with the other two conflicts that have extended without the government having adopted the determination to settle them? I am referring to the case of Sitramedhys [Trade Union of Medical, Hospital, and Related Workers], and now we have the case of Sitraterco?

[Callejas] Sitramedhys and Sitraterco are two very different cases. The Sitramedhys conflict invloves a labor-management relationship between the government and a trade union of government employees. That problem was settled after extended talks. Sometimes the problem arises becasue the conditions might imply collective actions with other unions. These collective actions have very harmful effects on the country's economic system, which is very critical.

Sitraterco's labor conflict does not involve the government. It is not our responsibilty to offer a solution. The two parties should arrive at a solution. The government can only mediate according to circumstances.

In the Sitraterco conflict with the Tela Railroad Company, the differences are too great and the conditions are the least favorable for a speedy solution. That has been one of the main problems. They have not yet approached the level at which a government mediation could speed the solution. The differences are still very evident, not necessarily because of intransigence by the two parties, but because of their interests, which are very different. When there have been other conflicts, like the case of Setra [not further identified], when the union acted, in our opinion wrongly, we proceeded rapidly to take the necessary action, which was to close the institution.

In the Social Security case, we acted rapidly to solve the conflict. In studying each of the conflicts, one of the greatest problems in employee-management relations is that over a long period, because of the labor laws, most of these relations were illegal. We must bring legality to these relations. I tried to do this at the beginning of my administration through negotiations.

However, the very same labor-management conflicts prevented the consultation because the first point of the agenda to be discussed every time we met with the different groups to coordinate things was the prevailing labor-management conflict.

That has been corrected. We have already signed an agreement with a platform, the goal of which is to make a concerted effort. Part of that concerted effort pertains to the reforms that the labor code should undergo so that once a labor-management agreement is reached, the labor code reforms will allow labor and management rights to fall within a legal framework. This is the basic problem. In this case, the implications for Sitraterco are very complex. The country has huge economic problems, which are the result of increased prices, fiscal frailty, the weakness of the government's public sector, and the foreign exchange problem. Honduras lives primarily on its banana and coffee exports, and in this specific case, 60 percent of the bananas exported are from the Tela company. This will show you the level of concern within the public sector. We have stood beside management and labor during the negotiations ever since the strike began.

However, both sides have voluntarily participated in the negotiation. This is why I am trying to find a way for the government to mediate if the sides accept. I had an experience with mediation the last time. The results were not positive because the sides apparently did not accept my arbitration, and the presidency was very much affected by having made that decision.

[Reporter] Mr. President, [words indistinct] have the sides proposed that you mediate?

[Callejas] No, we have not discussed that specific issue. The decision to become a mediator would only emerge if there is a concerted effort by both sides to allow for this mediation and if both sides—if they thought it timely—would respect the mediator's decree. If this does not happen, we will have to seek other alternatives to the labor-management problem at the Tela company.

[Reporter] Mr. Callejas, this morning a problem emerged on [words indistinct]. There was a clash between people who want to work and the labor union members. They tied up over 60 women and were about to beat them. The situation is serious at the farms. The people want to work, and we do not know how long this problem, which is affecting the entire country, will last.

[Callejas] I wish I had an answer to your question today. The fact is that my goal in coming here was to see how I could hasten the conflict's solution. I have talked to Sitraterco, and I will speak with the company. After analyzing the government's stand, we will propose alternatives or we will search for solutions within the legal framework of the nation.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Callejas] I think that is a very subjective question because it assumes that I support the transnational company, and that is not true. In that case, my position would be that of being a judge, and I would be just, equitable, and bearing in mind the interests of the nation. I would not be interested at all in benefitting either the company or the union. I am interested in the national problems.

If this labor-management situation did not concern bananas, but rather a product that represents five percent of the economy of Honduras, I would not even be discussing the issue. However, since bananas basically represent 30 percent of the national economy, it is my responsibility to look after the nation's interests, and not

the interests of the Tela company or the union. My participation in this conflict would involve a search for a solution favorable for Honduras.

[Reporter] Is the Tela Company planning to leave the country?

[Callejas] The Tela company is not interested in leaving Honduras.

[Reporter] What alternatives could be found for solving this conflict that is over 30 days old? [Words indistinct].

[Callejas] That is something we have to decide in case we cannot find options for solving the conflict through the normal and traditional mechanism. My first responsibility in that case is to bring the parties together to a point that will allow for negotiations. That is what we have been doing through the mechanisms of the executive branch.

I would prefer not to comment on the other part of the question, because our first goal is for them to reach an agreement.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]...this strike is already 31 days old today. You have already listened to the labor union, now you will have to listen to the company. What is the position of the labor union, which they mentioned to you, and how much time do you think will pass before the problem is resolved? What is the solution you think is the best because it must be solved as soon as possible?

[Callejas] You know very well that I cannot answer that question because I met with the Sitraterco in a climate of confidentiality, just as I will do with the Tela Railroad Company. Once I have listened to both sides, I will be able to make public statements regarding that question. I can currently give no information given to me by the Sitraterco in a confidential manner.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Callejas] That will be my intention, but I would not like to make statements on that because I have not spoken to the other party, which is the Tela company. I have simply held talks with one of the parties. Tonight and tomorrow I will speak with the other party. Then we will review the options with the cabinet. I will then decide if I can participate or not as a mediator in this matter because the basic thing here is that if there is going to be mediation, both sides need to agree on it. First, I am not asking to be called in as an arbitrator. I simply came to learn as much as I can about the situation on both sides. After listening to both sides, we will see if it is possible for us to find a solution at the presidency.

[Reporter] The Tela Railroad company says the workers are asking for too much. [Words indistinct].

[Callejas] I cannot answer that question either because if I answer yes or no, I would be undermining my position. I would like to be as neutral as possible because I do not want people to think that I am favoring either side. I am currently gathering more information in a confidential manner to see if we can find a solution to the problem.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] a matter of days, but we have not yet solved the problem of labor unions regarding their employers. Two years before a strike can be declared legal is too much. Besides, there are no guarantees for investors that their workers will not go on strike. We have heard about solidarity strikes that have no justification, and they adversely affect people who are not involved. We must pass laws in this regard. Are you thinking about decreasing the time in which a strike can be declared legal? Can the employer be given the possibility of declaring what is called a lookout [preceding word in English] in other countries? Can they be given that possibility?

[Callejas] We are acting within the framework of the agreement that was signed. With the struggle platform [plataforma de lucha], we specifically decided on certain reforms to the labor code, especially those involving the employers and their representatives, so as to shorten the procedures leading to the stages of mediation and negotiation. The labor code still states that for every 20 kilometers [words indistinct]... we are speaking of a strike that may take place in La Lima, and it would be 30 working days for Tegucigalpa. The labor code has not yet been adjusted to our infrastructure and to the media. My answer is affirmative. We are aware of that. Next week when I meet with the struggle platform, one of the actions I will take is to create a commission to review some of these problems dealing with the labor code.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Callejas] All of that must be based on the labor code. This second part is much more complex, but there is no doubt that we are going to work on the labor code so that the parties involved can come together. We cannot be subjecting the employer to a legal situation because it is very harmful for the process of investments and the guarantees for capital and labor stability. Consequently, we will review all options available in the labor code.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Callejas] We believe it is incorrect at this time to assume that we could rapidly replace the Tela Railroad company. To give you an idea, the British company that came here negotiated with the Tela company the transportation of its bananas because its first banana shipments ripened too quickly and it did not have the capacity to do it efficiently. This is a very complex industry. The industry does not only produce bananas. I have no doubt that we can produce bananas with or without the Tela Railroad Company. I am concerned about the fact that we do not have at this time the complex and dynamic infrastructure needed to market bananas; therefore, I believe the actions we must take should be aimed at making the Tela Railroad Company remain in Honduras and to have a good labor relation so that Honduras can become the leading banana producer in the world.

Callejas Addresses Nation on Tela Strike Problem

PA3007050190 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Speech by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas in Tegucigalpa—live; monitored in progress]

[Text] ...to comply with and enforce the Constitution and the laws and thus attain the Honduran people's social well-being. Also, clearly and categorically, the Constitution of our republic specifically tells the president, in his dual task as chief of state and chief executive, that he must watch over the harmony between management and labor.

Consequently, the Presidency must make sure that this harmony between management and labor prevails 24 hours a day in this country. This harmony will allow our society to develop in order to have justice, freedom, culture, and social and economic well-being.

The entire nation knows that on 25 June the Workers Union of Tela Railroad Company, Sitraterco, declared a general strike by its organization, a strike that involved the suspension of all labor activities by the workers of the Tela Railroad Company, a banana firm with headquarters in La Lima, Cortes Department.

Immediately after the strike announcement that included the demands made by the union, the executive branch created an ad hoc commission made up of the labor and social welfare minister, the deputy government and justice minister, and an honorable deputy of the Congress of the Republic.

This commission received specific instructions from the Presidency. It was told to engage in every activity needed to restore harmony in the relations between the enterprise and union that I already mentioned. However, the enterprise and the union are still very far from reaching an agreement. Consequently, a date for the solution of this conflict is not foreseeable in the near future. To this we must add that the labor conflict, which primarily affects the enterprise and the union, has already caused serious damage, a damage that is of disastrous consequences for the fatherland.

Let no one be deceived: Honduras' interests are over and above the interests of any person, group, union, or enterprise.

I am convinced that my country has been dragged into a situation of serious threats to our social and economic stability. Thus, we must analyze it with the seriousness that circumstances impose and make decisions that will lead to strengthening a constructive climate of peace, harmony, and national understanding.

Honduran law is clear. The obligation of rulers is perfectly outlined by the law, and the rights and duties of workers and the enterprises are also clearly regulated by the country's laws.

As the ruler of Honduras, I know that the entire nation knows about my personal actions and my human and understanding nature. I understand man's actions and those of his organizations. Respectful of these principles, I had trusted the enterprise and the union to find a just and expeditious solution to the problem. However, reality shows that we waited in vain.

I am convinced that man can, through dialogue, reach conclusions that will safeguard his rights without having to undermine the most sacred rights of society in general. For this reason, the sides in this conflict must thoroughly realize—with the seriousness imposed by their problem—that the country urgently needs and demands a solution.

As a leader, I trust fruitful dialogues. Therefore, I want to tell the nation today that the Honduran people chose me the president of this country to lead it to greater progress and well-being. Consequently, this afternoon, the government's ad hoc commission delivered to the enterprise and the union a solution proposal that my government feels is advisable and consistent with national interests. These interests are sacred, and I took an oath to defend them. In view of this, I will not hesitate one moment if faced with the need to preserve public peace and guarantee orderly work and economic progress, as well as to comply with and enforce the Constitution and the laws. Enforcing the laws has now become imperative, and they must be enforced immediately, with all the consequences that derive from such action.

The proposal is based on the country's economic reality, taking into consideration the workers' demands and the possibility that the enterprise has to meet such demands.

My government is proposing something just, and therefore I urge both sides to accept this proposal in good faith and with a high sense of responsibility in order to preserve the nation's tranquility and stability. Everyone's effort is vital to reach national goals.

For this reason, it is my duty as president of the republic, to again issue a call to the parties in conflict to accept the proposal made by the ad hoc commission so that we can find an expeditious solution for the current conflict. Good evening.

Government Proposal to Tela Company, Workers

PA3007051190 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 0215 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Government proposal to the Tela Railroad Company Workers Union, Sitraterco, and the Tela Railroad Company; read by Nahum Valladares, minister-adviser of information—live or recorded]

[Text] A. Salary increase:

1. The basic salary per hour would be fixed at 2.562 lempiras.

2. All workers who are paid by the hour will receive a salary increase of 4.10 lempiras per day.

3. Those who earn monthly salaries will receive an increase of 125 lempiras per month.

4. Work per job, task, or piecework, which is variable, will be remunerated with an increase of 17.2 percent over the standing price.

B. Once activities begin again in all of the enterprise's operation areas, the parties will have to continue the negotiations within the law to find solutions to the other points of the contract that are in conflict.

Regarding the proposal made by the Republic's Government, we present the following chart of the increases according to the said government proposal.

Basic hourly salary: The current salary is 2.05 lempiras. With an increase of .512 lempiras or 4.10 lempiras per day, the new salary would be 2.56 lempiras per hour.

Basic daily salary: The current daily salary is 16.40 lempiras. With the increase of 4.10 lempiras per day, the new daily salary would be 20.50 lempiras.

Basic monthly salary: The current monthly salary is 492 lempiras. With an increase of 125 lempiras, the new monthly salary would be 617 lempiras.

Salary per job, task, or piecework: According to an estimated average, if 32 lempiras are earned currently per day, with an increase of 17.2 percent or 5.04 lempiras, the new salary, accordingly, would be 37 lempiras per day.

This has been the proposal presented this afternoon by the Government of the Republic through the governmental ad-hoc commission to the representatives of the Tela Railroad Company banana enterprise and the members of the said company's workers union, Sitraterco.

Nicaragua

'Sinister Plan' Against Chamorro Revealed

PA2907041490 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 28 Jul 90 pp 1, 12

[Text] Citing unofficial sources, the radio station La Primerisima, on its radio program "Without Borders," last night revealed a sinister plan to force President Violeta Chamorro to resign; to remove from power her closest advisers, headed by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo; and to selectively murder "influential Sandinist leaders."

The report stated that in the green and picturesque city of Juigalpa last weekend, uncertain Nicaraguan Vice President Virgilio Godoy held a long and secret meeting with the counterrevolutionary leader Franklin, who for a long time has been accused by his colleagues Tigrillo, Ruben, and Johnny of being "in collusion with Chamorro and Lacayo."

The radio station La Primerisima, however, stated that Franklin complained to Godoy of having been betrayed by the president's son-in-law [Antonio Lacayo], and he told him that he was willing "to neutralize him." Godoy met with Franklin to promote a reconciliation between him and "his partners," and to tell him that "things can get done in this country with weapons." Godoy talked to Franklin about a thorough plan devised with the cooperation of the U.S. Embassy and in which Catholic Church and Cosep [Higher Council of the Private Enterprise] leaders, other political parties, and labor unions of the defunct UNO [National Opposition Union] would participate.

The report revealed in the "Without Borders" radio program even announces that Franklin will begin sending an undetermined number of armed contra squads into Managua. These squads would arrive gradually and in small groups until a few thousand men are gathered in Managua by December.

The people who are presumably involved in the plan are: Mauricio Membreno of the Social Democratic Party, Roberto Gutierrez of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, Alberto Torrez of the Democratic Party of National Confidence led by Agustin Jarquin, Hector Aleman of CUS [Confederation for Trade Union Unity], Carlos Huembes and Sergio Roa of the CTN [Central Organization of Nicaraguan Workers], Gilberto Cuadra and Ramiro Gurdian from Cosep, and two Managua Catholic Church leaders.

According to the report, Membreno, Gutierrez, Aleman, and Torrez' mission is to find places and security houses in Managua to lodge Franklin's men, one of whose objectives would be "to selectively murder" certain "Sandinist figures" and to exert military pressure to force Chamorro to resign.

According to what the radio station said, before the most recent labor strike U.S. Ambassador Harry Shlaudeman had agreed with Godoy as to which would be the plan's general guidelines, with the promise of making him the new Nicaraguan president with the support of the Cosep businessmen.

It was also said that Shlaudeman met with President Chamorro twice and suggested that she should "withdraw and rest," subtly giving reasons such as her health and age, which, according to his insinuations, prevent her from leading "the country toward democracy with enough efficiency."

The report adds that after Shlaudeman told her all that foolish nonsense, Chamorro decided to go to confession and to seek spiritual counseling and support from the priests she considers closest to her. With serious and apologetic remarks, those spiritual guides told her that if she really felt unable to lead the government, she should

step aside and give her post to a younger man with more political experience and "firmness."

The references suggest that the two Catholic Church leaders who talked to President Chamorro were already aware of the plan. While the president was blindly seeking their advice, the first one was plotting with Cuadra and Gurdian from Cosep and the second one had appointed a certain journalist from Radio Corporacion to provide logistical support and find security houses.

The reports mention that National Assembly President Miriam Arguello is also involved in the plan "from a distance." She would be waiting for the president's resignation to hypothetically become Godoy's "vice" president. Godoy, by the way, has plans to travel to Europe next week with a new economic plan and with the intention of discrediting Central Bank President Mayorga's economic measures.

Godoy's plans would be—as he had already promised—to become the Nicaraguan president before December and to make Chamorro dismiss General Humberto Ortega from his post. According to what was said on the radio, Lacayo and Alfredo Cesar are already aware of the plan, and they asserted that they are not willing to "let it" happen.

Lacayo Issues Warning to Civic Brigades

PA2707152790 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1412 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Managua, 27 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo warned last night that "if it is discovered" that extremist groups in this country are becoming an armed movement, the government "will act as harshly as called for by the laws."

However, he said that if those groups devote themselves only to distributing propaganda leaflets, "there is no problem with that because that is why we have freedom. We are ready to put up with criticism."

"Nicaraguans have already voted for peace, and peace has been achieved. It is ridiculous for some citizens to want to restart the war," said Lacayo, who is regarded as the "strongman" in Violeta Chamorro's cabinet.

Lacayo held a number of meetings with reporters upon his return from Mexico, to which he traveled to participate in negotiations to refinance this country's debt to Mexico.

A self-styled "General Staff of the Civic Brigades of National Salvation" demanded in a communique released yesterday in Managua that President Violeta Chamorro "correct five errors" her government has committed "to avert a bloodbath in Nicaragua."

The "civic brigades" do not identify themselves with any political party, but their demands are similar to those of sectors that supported Chamorro's candidacy but are now criticizing the president.

According to the statements of the "General Staff," whose members have not been identified, the "bloodbath" has been threatened by former President Daniel Ortega.

Apparently, the "civic brigades" refer to Ortega's speech of 16 July, during which he said that "those who think that the time has come to make Sandinist heads roll should be careful because, if this happens, their heads will roll first."

The unsigned communique addressed to "the people of Nicaragua and to international public opinion,"—the fifth distributed by the so-called "general staff,"—was released to the Foreign Press Club in Managua by an unidentified person.

According to the anonymous "general staff," one of the "errors" of the current admninistration was not inviting National Opposition Union (UNO) leaders, coalition of 14 parties which supported Chamorro's candidacy, to join the government.

Another is making a "pact" with the Sandinists. The pact permits the Sandinists "to maintain virtual control of the current (Chamorro) Government," and retain General Humberto Ortega as Army chief.

Jaime Bonilla, deputy and leader of the Independent Liberal Party (PLI), a political organization which is part of the "UNO," denied that that group "endorses or supports" the "Civic Brigades of National Salvation."

"It would be madness to support those brigades because this would serve as justification for the Sandinists to seize power by way of a coup d'etat," the PLI leader stated.

Thus far, the "General Staff of the Civic Brigades of National Salvation" has not claimed credit for any action, other than that of distributing communiques.

Chamorro on Democracy, Other Issues

PA2707151390 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Interview with President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro by Information and Press Director Danilo Lacayo, on the "Democracy in Action" segment on 26 July—live or recorded]

[Text] [Lacayo] Good evening, Nicaraguan brothers. Just like we announced last evening, we have a pleasant surprise for all the viewers. Our president, Mrs. Violeta de Chamorro, is here with us. She is our guest today. Welcome, Mrs. Chamorro.

[Chamorro] Thank you, dear Danilo. Thank you, Nicaraguan people.

[Lacayo] Well, Mrs. Chamorro, you have told us that democracy is criticism, democracy is talking with your people, and democracy is sending messages to the people.

[Chamorro] That is right.

[Lacayo] There are times in which rulers—in this case you, as president of all the Nicaraguans—face criticism, a criticism that is only possible today, when you are president.

[Chamorro] It can be constructive criticism and destructive criticism.

[Lacayo] That is right, Mrs. Chamorro. Therefore, we will talk about the doubts prevailing in some sectors of the population.

[Chamorro] Yes, of course.

[Lacayo] Mrs. Chamorro, one of the main questions is: When will the Army's reduction be implemented?

[Chamorro] Danilo, the Army's reduction....[changes thought] as far as I am concerned, it should have been done from the very start, meaning on 25 April, when I was sworn in. Unfortunately, things are not possible when you want them. The Army will be gradually reduced until we have, like I have always said, a Costa Rican-style Army, meaning a small Army and a small police—enough to protect our homeland and all the Nicaraguan people who are embarked on reconciliation and live here in Nicaragua. I believe this will be possible soon.

[Lacayo] It is important that the voters, meaning the majority who voted for you on 25 February, hear you because certain sectors of the population—one cannot please everyone, of course—say that there are two governments here. On the one hand, Mrs. Chamorro's government and, on the other hand, the Sandinists' government. What can you say about those sectors' statement?

[Chamorro] Look, there is no democracy without criticism. The only government that exists in Nicaragua is Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's government. I am the president and I was elected by the people through a secret vote. There was no fraud. Even if they had tried to perpetrate a fraud, there was none. I am in charge of the government and will not relinquish it to anyone. Why? Because the people elected me. We will have to make many sacrifices and face many problems in this country because the inheritance that the other government, the Sandinist government, left me....[changes thought] I wish I did not have to say Sandinist. Poor Sandino. He is a national hero, but they chose that name, and it is done.

It is as if we were now to call this government a Violetist government. My government is the government of democracy and reconciliation.

The legacy that we received from the Sandinist government, or rather what I call the Daniel Ortega corporation, was a very sad legacy for our people. I wish to take advantage of this occasion, while I am here on television, to make the people understand that the government did not leave us afloat; it left us bankrupt, and that means that it left us completely wiped out, without a cent.

I would have liked to see my country, in these three months of government, not bankrupt and not with people complaining of the critical economic situation. Why? Because with all the problems stemming from the past government, with all the strikes that they have carried out and that they want to carry out, frankly, nothing good can be accomplished. Instead of being something constructive, it would be destructive.

However, I believe that the Nicaraguan people, after this past strike, which was the biggest one and which destroyed the streets of Managua...[changes thought] because it was the former Sandinist government that promoted it. Daniel Ortega said this himself, which is why I do not doubt it, because he said so. He said: I encouraged the workers. Many of them used shovels and other implements to destroy the streets. This is not logical.

I also know that a great number of workers did not want to participate in the strike. That is why, at this time, three months into my government, we are in an economic crisis, because the legacy inherited from Daniel Ortega's administration is evil for all the Nicaraguan people. I would like him to place his hand over his heart and think about whether he wants to be a future candidate within a number of years.

[Lacayo] This talk has been very interesting, Dona Violeta, because this shows, as I have said in some of the homes that I have visited, that you are aware of the economic problems that the housewife faces every day.

[Chamorro] How could I fail to be aware of this, when I know that the entire situation is critical? Everything is very expensive. However, I do have great hope, Danilo, that with the new currency that Dr. Francisco Mayorga has established, or is about to establish in our country, we are going to overcome all these critical problems that we face. We just have to get used to it. Thank heaven, we will no longer have the old cordoba [chanchero], nor will we have the little machines making millions of bills or have to be putting on revalidation stamps [resellos] or anything like that. That will be a relief for all Nicaraguans, and we have to get used to it. I understand that Dr. Mayorga will put the new currency on the streets next month.

[Lacayo] In August?

[Chamorro] I think that in August we will see broader economic horizons. The situation will be much better, and little by little we will get accustomed to this. If we lived through a sad war fomented by an ideology, then it should not be hard for us Nicaraguans, who love our homeland, to get accustomed to live in tranquility and peace, and with a stable economy. How can a Nicaraguan who wants to live in his country not get accustomed to something like that? That is what I ask myself.

[Lacayo] Now that we are talking about topics that the viewers hear about every day, I would like to hear your views on a few topics in particular. Among other things, Dona Violeta, it is being said that you have made pacts with the Sandinists. Excuse me, the people are saying that you made a pact with the Sandinists and that you have given in to the Sandinists. I have always said that this is not true because you clearly said that you would not make a pact with anyone.

[Chamorro] I said this to a Spanish reporter who asked me a question about the word pact. I only make pacts with God and with no one else. Much less with a government that has left us such a fatal inheritance. I recall a pact that Aguero [not further identified] made with Somoza. But for me to make a pact with the former Sandinist government, that would never happen. The people think that Mr. Humberto Ortega has remained in the government because of a pact. Mr. Ortega is under my command and in my government, and I have said that he is in the government on a provisional and temporary basis. He could leave at any moment. I will decide when. That is not called a pact. If there is a name for it, it is (?power).

[Lacayo] Dona Violeta, what you have just said is very important because the people are worried. A few days ago, a peasant in Boaco was talking to the mayor and some politicians and asked them what was going to happen with the land that was seized. He wanted to know why you were not looking into this matter. He wondered if you had given in to them on this matter.

[Chamorro] Listen Danilo, we have democracy now. Therefore, the people have every right to be worried about the issue of the land that was seized. Much land was seized. I have said this many times. For the past three months I have hardly slept thinking about a way to straighten out all those problems we inherited. I have appointed Duilio Baltodano, an excellent man whom I trust completely, to look into this and he has already told me that he has a room full of papers and many problems. He said that many of these problems will be answered as soon as possible. August will be a month of happiness, a month during which many of the problems the people are experiencing will be solved. The lands that were seized illegally will be given back and we are going to let the people know all the horrible things that the former Sandinist government did. They gave away vehicles and houses. How could they do something like that? That is something that is not done anywhere else. The people are going to be told of all those things they did.

[Lacayo] Dona Violeta, it is important that we stress the following topic because for some time now the people have been saying that the government plan will not be fulfilled and that the government plan is at a standstill.

[Chamorro] Who says that it is at a standstill?

[Lacayo] Some sectors are saying it, Dona Violeta. You know that you can never please everyone.

[Chamorro] I know.

[Lacayo] What do you think about all this? Are you going to fulfill your government plan?

[Chamorro] First, I have only been in government three months and still have six years to go. The government plan is going to be fulfilled, and we are going to bring complete democracy to Nicaragua. We are going to have six years of democracy and not 10 years of Marxism-Leninism that we inherited. That presented much sadness for us, and this is why many Nicaraguans left the country. At this moment we are all working for democracy and freedom and not for a continuation of the past because that was a sad thing we inherited. We are going to fulfill the plan and all the Nicaraguan people are going to be very happy.

Why? Because they will know that they have a piece of land that will be theirs and that the Sandinist Defense Committees will not confiscate. This is what the Nicaraguans want, or do they want to remain as they were? Is this why they are saying that I am not going to fulfill promises during my period? Let us see what they want for the future.

[Lacayo] Now you are talking about democracy and education, but you have also referred to the police. You have insisted on having a national police.

[Chamorro] Of course. In the first place, my wish has always been to change the olive drab uniform that policemen have. Why? To get rid of the police trauma. Some say that policemen are bad. I know that many policemen are good. In the days of Somoza and the Sandinists, there were policemen who were good just like there were guards who were good and others who were bad. What I want to do as soon as possible is get rid of the olive drab uniform to provide them with a white and blue uniform, the colors of the Nicaraguan flag. Unfortunately, we do not have the money for that. We are waiting for a donation to get the policemen their little blue pants and their little gray or white shirts, like the color of the flag, and we want to reduce the police force to a minimum.

As I have said before, I want this country to have a small police force to protect the people [words indistinct] like Costa Rica and truly democratic countries. The Nicaraguans do not want to see rifles any more. I am issuing orders to do this and to have a new police force where policemen will have only a stick.

I remember that when we went into exile, my children—Carlos Fernando and all my children—told their father: Look, father, the policemen do not have arms. He told them: No, they have sticks.

This is how I want policemen to be. When a person has a weapon, if he does not use it properly, many people may die. I do not want that.

[Lacayo] You always speak about the [words indistinct]. In Nicaragua, we still have an extreme left and an

extreme right. What can you tell the people who do not believe in the message of national reconciliation?

[Chamorro] Our campaign was for national reconciliation and for peace. All Nicaraguans want peace. Those who are too extremist and are not happy and want to do things that should not happen, like promoting strikes...

[Lacayo, interrupting] Getting armed to promote the war...

[Chamorro] There will be justice. I trust that those people will understand little by little. The extreme left, the center, and the extreme right are obsolete words. The Soviet Union and other countries are engaged in perestroyka and want unity. If the Nicaraguans do not want unity, what do they want? Maybe this is a matter of envy. I think that they will understand. This includes men, women, and young people who do not understand what reconciliation means. Reconciliation means pardon, and pardon means shaking hands and working for the fatherland, for the country, or for themselves, but let them work alone or in group. This is great. I advocate reconciliation, and I believe that the extremists will realize soon that they did not achieve that.

[Lacayo] As Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo has said, [words indistinct] peace.

[Chamorro] I respect the cardinal very much. I think that he deserves respect. In addition to peace, one must be in the grace of God to feel one has a clear conscience to be able to work for the fatherland. Each person in his own way, be it a doctor, a priest, or a nun. Everybody has a function to carry out. There are these young people [words indistinct], each of them has a job and a way to make a living.

[Lacayo] Speaking of earning one's living, Mrs. Violeta, you have instructed several Cabinet members to form the National Emergency Committee for the Atlantic Coast. The health and government ministers have informed you about the situation in the Atlantic coast. Following your orders, we have organized a telemarathon to benefit the Atlantic coast.

[Chamorro] Of course. There is an emergency on the Atlantic coast, and people must become aware of that situation. The Atlantic coast has been hurt by all kinds of disasters. To top it all off, the heaviest rains are falling in that area. There is huge flooding, and we have a serious crisis there. That is why I requested the radio network. I know that Nicaraguans have a noble heart and that they will help the Atlantic coast tomorrow during the telemarathon with as much as they can. They can donate money, rice, clothing, soap, or whatever they want to our brothers on the Atlantic coast. The people on the Atlantic coast need this assistance as soon as possible. We will probably send the donations tomorrow night or the day after tomorrow.

[Lacayo] The situation of our brothers on the Atlantic coast should help the reconciliation process. What do you think, Mrs. Violeta?

[Chamorro] Of course. The people on the Atlantic coast are my brothers. More so now because many people have returned to Nicaragua after having left their homeland out of disappointment. Many Nicaraguan people are experiencing an extremely serious crisis on the Atlantic coast because of the rains, the flooding, and the economic crisis. Many of them have returned empty-handed to Nicaragua. Some have lost everything in the hurricane, which is part of God's will. They lost their little houses and shacks. We all have to help our brothers on the Atlantic coast in order to help them rebuild their towns as soon as possible.

I also hope that international organizations will help our homeland and especially the Atlantic coast. They need not help the people of Managua. We need help for all those small towns who are worse off than us. We need the help of all those who helped Nicaragua in the past, because that assistance is gone with the wind; it is gone with the hurricane. This assitance will not be taken away by the hurricane; it will be used to benefit the people.

[Lacayo] Mrs. Violeta, before we close this program, we, the Nicaraguan people, are always interested in hearing what the Nicaraguan president has to say to them. Can you please leave us with a final message for the Nicaraguan people and not only for the people of UNO or of the Sandinist Front, but for all Nicaraguans, including the youths, the students, and the people in general. What is your message for them?

[Chamorro] I will repeat what I have always told them. Trust Violeta Barrios de Chamorro because I am here to help you all and not to benefit myself. I have great trust in my cabinet and in all those who are helping Nicaragua change its mentality and ideology in order to enter a true democracy. We entered democracy three months ago, and we will continue advancing along that path.

I ask the Nicaraguan people to trust that this country will move forward. We will work with full power and will move faster than jets. I ask you to have faith in our country because we will accomplish nothing without faith.

[Lacayo, interrupting] And optimism, right?

[Chamorro] Of course. Thank you, Danilo, for having me in this program. I hope Nicaraguans are content. If they are not, they will let me know. There is a great deal of criticism, but I do not mind it. I take criticism and never lose hope. My hopes are very useful, and I will only lose them the day I die.

[Lacayo] Mrs. Violeta, in another program I said that you have always told all those who work with you to be open to criticism.

[Chamorro] Of course. We have to be able to take criticism because if you fail to do that, you become a

very particular and [word indistinct] individual. It should not be that way. Government officials should accept criticism. I have taken a great deal of criticism, but I am not going to argue with each person who criticizes me. We have to let them be and let their words be gone with time. However, Nicaragua is indeed going to become a republic.

[Lacayo] Thank you very much, Mrs. Violeta. We thank you for your presence in the program Democracy on the Move. We hope to have you here again some other time.

[Chamorro] Of course, Danilo, whenever you want me to come here again, I will come.

[Lacayo] Thank you, Mrs. Violeta. Thank you to all our television viewers for being here in this conversation with Mrs. Violeta, the president of all Nicaraguans. She herself said, we accept criticism. We are waiting for your criticism because Mrs. Violeta is very interested in hearing that criticism. Am I right Mrs. Violeta?

[Chamorro] Of course, you are right. Some people turn criticism into abuse and go overboard, but that does not matter.

[Lacayo] Good evening television viewers. Thank you very much and see you tomorrow.

Minister on Armed Forces Reductions, Budget

PA2907021190 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Jul 90 p 5

[Report by Fidelina Suarez M.]

[Text] Another drastic reduction in the number of Army troops in September will allow the state to reduce even further the allotment for that institution in the Republic's general budget, which will be revealed in mid-November this year.

Finance Minister Dr. Emilio Pereira Alegria made this announcement and then added it is expected that less than 20 percent of the general budget will be allocated for the Armed Forces.

In the past two years the Army occupied an important position in the general budget, but the government will change this situation. "The percentages indicate the priority that the government assigns each institution. We are certain that the government has other priorities that do not include the Army," he pointed out.

The main task involved in the drafting of the new budget is reducing the size of the state and its fiscal deficit, which increased as a result of the large number of debts.

Dr. Pereira said that reducing the size of the state does not imply creating more unemployment, because the aim is to privatize certain state properties to improve their performance.

"The state grew disproportionately in the past few years, while its efficiency did not. We want to end complaints about the state's lack of capacity," Pereira said.

All ministries and institutions that receive allotments from the general budget must make their needs known. Also, a mechanism to regulate talks between the Finance Ministry and the institutions that are involved will be established.

The minister said that "the people will know how much the general budget amounts to because the National Assembly will debate the budget in November, and this means that we should have drafted it by October."

Last year's budget shows that the state had $200 million in revenues and $400 million in expenditures. This is the reason for the current deficit of $200 million.

The finance minister, who underscored the importance of the budget by saying that it is "the expression of the government plan," voiced his confidence that this year's expenditure figures will be smaller.

Chamber of Commerce Spokesmen Deplore Contraband

PA2907160690 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] This country's commerce sector is being asphyxiated on sea, air, and land. The government must take measures to avoid contraband—otherwise, the Chamber of Commerce will call an assembly to decide how to eliminate this scourge.

The treasury is receiving from the commerce sector only 31 percent of its total tax revenue. The government has to implement its health program but, as long as this contraband exists, it will be impossible to secure the funds to implement that program.

Chamber of Commerce spokesmen have said that contraband is asphyxiating the Nicaraguan commercial and industrial sectors.

These spokesmen have noted: Goods are being smuggled into the country by sea, air, and land, and government officials know about this. They will have to give us all the support we need so that tax funds produced by the commerce sector may allow the Health Ministry to carry out its programs, which are government programs.

The Treasury is receiving very little tax revenue from the commerce sector, only 31 percent of total revenues, and this is because of the contraband situation in Nicaragua.

Juan Lopez Zeledon, president of the Chamber of Commerce, has stated: All government officials must be prepared to support us, because if they do not provide the assistance necessary to end this situation, we will hold a meeting to see how contraband can be stopped.

There are reports that some persons go through customs and pay $5 daily for entering this country and $3 daily for returning to their country through the border.

According to another report that reached the Chamber of Commerce, sealed freight trucks pass through the borders at night and are seen but ignored by many.

Boats whose return Honduras is demanding, and that are in the hands of the Sandinist Navy, are allegedly engaged in smuggling activities that involve big ships that anchor near the Bluefields coast to wait for Nicaraguan smugglers to do business.

The many diplomatic passports in the hands of Sandinists also have to do with embezzlements of Treasury funds.

Roundtable Assesses Chamorro's First 90 Days

PA2907173890 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Jul 90 pp 1, 8

[Report by Emilio Zambrana]

[Text] A roundtable was held at the Conapro [National Confederation of Professional Associations] headquarters on the night of 25 July. The roundtable assessed the first 90 days of Mrs. Violeta de Chamorro's government. Private sector representatives, members of the UNO [National Opposition Union] Political Council, members of the Workers Permanent Congress [CPT], and Catholic Church representatives participated in the roundtable.

Giving examples of what he described as the "vacuum of power in our country, UNO Political Council member Agustin Jarquin said that although it is true that in three months the current government has made some improvements, especially in the fields of freedom of expression, foreign relations, and the suspension of the military service, the process of economic revitalization is still pending. Jarquin said that "the democratic process is experiencing a crisis because the government is exercising power in a weak way."

As for the social agreement promoted by Mrs. Chamorro, Jarquin said that the agreement requires an atmosphere of harmony among all political, business, and labor groups and not only between the government and the party that lost the 25 February elections.

Jarquin stressed: "The FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] internal crisis is promoting the adoption of positions of force toward the new government." He added that if the weak exercise of power continues, the Nicaraguan people—not the government—will suffer the consequences.

Referring his statements to the basic points of the document of the bishops issued on 4 July, Msgr. Bismarck Carballo said that the Church "is a mother and a teacher." He added that he has closely followed recent events with great concern. Msgr. Carballo said that for this reason, in his 22 July homily, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo mentioned the FSLN attitude and the position adopted by the government during the recent riots, which caused human and property loses.

Msgr. Carballo earnestly hopes that after the first 90 days of government, the executive branch will succeed in implementing the UNO political program. He said that "the people who were chosen to rule the country are the ones who should govern it."

Carballo added that after three months in government, the new administration has failed to disarm and reorganize the Army; it has been unable to recover the goods that the Sandinists obtained in an illegal way; and it has failed to disarm the Sandinist civilians. Carballo stressed that those civilians were the ones who promoted the riots that ended on 12 July with the signing of an agreement between the FNT [National Workers Front] and a government commission appointed by Mrs. Chamorro.

On behalf of the private sector, Ramiro Gurdian said that the private sector supports and will continue to support the new government, but "we have many reservations because two governments are coexisting in Nicaragua: one is Mrs. Chamorro's government and the other one is the government of the Sandinists who continue to control state enterprises." This is the general impression that the private sector, the UNO Political Commission, and the independent workers have of Mrs. Chamorro's government. This opinion was released a few weeks ago by the so-called Committee of National Salvation, whose formation was tacitly rejected by the government a few hours after it was formed.

Ninety days after having assumed power, the government finds iself with its hands tied," Gurdian stated. He said this is the result of the government's not having fired those persons who are causing chaos and anarchy: "The government knows who such persons are," he added.

At this point, the participants at the meeting had calmed down. Many people said that three months after being in power the government should have called the Sandinists to order, resorting to the respective laws and not allowing those who violate the country's laws to go unpunished.

Those present were surprised to see Ramiro Gurdian explain the current situation of the fiscal, budgetary, and state deficits, as well as the deficits of the state enterprises. Altogether they total 35 percent of the Gross National Product (GNP). This, he said, has not been corrected, "and there is no indication that things will change," 90 days after the government took the reins of power, he added.

Regarding privatizations, Gurdian said adequate laws are nonexistent, because the Sandinist laws, which go against the nature of the new government, are still in force. Gurdian said that the Nicaraguans are morally obliged to support the government of Dona Violeta, but that there is no reason why they should remain quiet in the face of the current state of affairs.

"What is happening in Nicaragua? Who is governing our country?" Dr. Myriam Arguello asked. She said that 90

days after the government took power, it is obvious that there has been a divorce between those sectors who contributed to gaining power and the government.

Dr. Arguello said that the government has taken the wrong course. She defended the National Salvation Commitee headed by Dr. Virgilio Godoy, who maintains an open conflict with sectors of Mrs. Chamorro's cabinet.

Dr. Arguello came out in defense of the political and executive class, alleging that technocracy is good, but it cannot resolve the government's political problems.

Lowering the tone of his previous presentations, Carlos Huembes of the CTN [Nicaraguan Workers Federation], said it is very difficult and premature to demand that the government, "change the monstrous structures of Sandinism after being in office for 90 days." "Therefore, the transition is very sticky," the independent workers leader stated. Nonetheless, he argued that sectarianism prevails and that an absurd silence is maintained by the government authorities regarding the chaotic situation promoted by Sandinists.

The UNO had predicted that the people were going to face difficult moments," Dr. Gustavo Tablada stated. He noted that the damage inflicted by the Sandinists had been total and, therefore, "the measures to be adopted by the new government should also be total."

Tablada stated that the reconciliation promoted by the government is not a tactical measure but something that is very necessary for the coexistence of Nicaraguan society, because "polarization is unnecessary." He alluded to those sectors that favor confrontation instead of the coexistence of the conflicting sectors.

Jaime Icabalceta stated in a moderate speech that 90 days after the new government took office "we cannot expect a deep change to occur because Sandinism was a monster for 10 years, stealing entire enterprises."

"Our government is at a disadvantage in the face of that organized Sandinist monster," Icabalceta said, noting that "we must all organize," because only then will we be able to change things, not with regrets or mea culpas," he concluded.

FNT Leader Comments on Labor Situation

PA2907170390 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 27 Jul 90 p 5

[Text] Lucio Jimenez, coordinator of the National Workers Front [FNT], has said that the causes that brought about the recent national strike are present again and the conflict is worsening because the government is failing to act quickly.

After a meeting involving labor federations affiliated to the CST [Sandinist Central Organization of Workers] to assess the situation, Jimenez said that all arbitrary and vengeful actions carried out by certain officials have been reported to the government. He added that "these are the sort of actions that trigger conflicts that they will later claim we are inventing."

The main causes of social conflicts are the mass firings at the Managua Mayor's Office, Enabus [National Bus Enterprise], and at other state institutions; the constant currency devaluations brought about by the government's frantic economic policy; and the incredible increase in the cost of living.

"The same conditions that led to the most recent strike are present again," said Jimenez, who will submit to the other FNT leaders the labor federations' proposals regarding actions that will be adopted in the future. For the time being, Jimenez added, there is a strong movement in solidarity with the workers fired from ALMA [Managua Mayor's Office], and we are holdings talks with Mitrab [Labor Ministry] to prevent mass firings as a result of company closures.

However, FNT leaders are displeased with the results of the initial talks with the government and will now explore the extent of the government's determination to solve the workers' problems. "I believe we will adopt certain measures once we show that we are making efforts and that the government is not doing its part because a solution is at its reach," Jimenez said without giving details.

The only mixed commission that has yielded practical solutions for the FNT is the textile commission. In this regard, the labor movement supported the Coip's [People's Industrial Corporation] proposal to the government that some sort of advance financing be granted to at least the three main companies—namely, Texnicsa [Textilera de Nicaragua, S.A.], Fanatex [Fabrica Nacional de Textiles, S.A.], and Cotexma [Complejo Textil Managua, S.A.], to avert their closure. "The entire textile industry would bankrupt should these companies cease operating," he said.

According to studies, the textile industry will be paralyzed should the government not solve the financing problem within the next three days. The FNT is waiting for a government reply to the Coip proposal because "we cannot continue meeting while more companies are closing at an accelerated pace," Jimenez said.

Jimenez believes that an economic recession has virtually reached an irreversible point because economic activity will be dangerously stalemated as long as the country lacks an investment program.

According to the labor movement and business sector, "everything having to do with industrial production and other economic activities would be paralyzed in a disorderly fashion" should there be no investment program within a week. As for the awaited national dialogue, Jimenez said that from a practical standpoint, the dialogue began with the recent strike and continues with the mixed commissions. Jimenez said: "Let no one be fooled that solemn meetings in which a lot of people gather to

drink coffee and spend time together can take place while problems continue to worsen."

The labor leader believes that a national dialogue is a struggle in which the workers express their views and seek practical solutions to their problems. However, he also believes that "if the government wants to use the dialogue to delay a solution to our problems, it would only be exposing itself to social and economic chaos."

"We are not inventing the problems, and the government will be solely responsible for emerging contradictions," Jimenez said. He added that the Somozist Managua Mayor Arnold Aleman must be firmly challenged. "Mayors like him have no future," he said.

The construction industry mixed commission held a meeting during which the FNT representatives presented a draft contingent revival program aimed at maintaining the jobs of 20,000 workers in the construction industry.

The proposal includes immediately paying off all government debts to companies, reopening projects that had been started, securing national resources for projects involving foreign resources, and opening new projects to bids and assigning them to the lowest bidder.

The FNT also proposes that the Association of Engineers and Architects affiliated to Conapro Heroes y Martires [Heroes and Martyrs National Confederation of Professional Associations] and the unions participate in a bid assessment commission. It wants to obtain financing for companies dealing with construction materials and the dollarization of salaries in the immediate future.

Article on Future of FSLN Leadership

PA2907170290 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 25 Jul 90 p 3

[Article by Carlos Tunnermann, former Sandinist ambassador to the United States, entitled: "The Democratization of the FSLN"]

[Text] I always read our dear friend and comrade Aldo Diaz Lacayo's frequent brilliant commentaries on local and international politics with great interest. However, this time when I read his article entitled: The FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] Congress and the National Directorate published in the 22 July issue of the newspaper BARRICADA, I found arguments and conclusions that worried me because they do not correspond to the process of internal democratization that the FSLN has fortunately begun.

I do not think that the continuity of the current FSLN National Directorate is the sole guarantee of the unity and survival of the FSLN. I think it is neither valid nor suitable to link the unity and survival of the FSLN with the need to ratify the historic power of its current leaders. To do so would be like admitting that in 11 years of democratic and people's revolution, the FSLN did not make much progress as a political organization, since its unity and survival depend on a national directorate that is considered essential. I also believe that at this point in time, it is no longer fitting to talk about factions and tendencies, because that would mean that a whole decade of revolution was not enough to eliminate those problems.

The truth is that the unity and survival of a modern and democratic political party—as the one the FSLN aspires to be—depend on the faith that its militants have in the party's program. That program's political goals and strategies to reach power must have the ample participation and approval of most of the party members.

Irremovable directorates are only justifiable in clandestine organizations because they are unable to function within the democratic system. They are also justifiable in political parties that are under the pressure of a war situation. Obviously, history has proven that there are other examples of irremovable or life directorates, as in the case of Emiliano Chamorro, who was proclaimed "life leader of the Conservative Party of Nicaragua." A government led by a strongman, however, is the absolute opposite of democracy, and I do not think that that is what the FSLN or its militants are proposing.

Not even in the socialist countries is it justifiable to establish close links between the party's fate and a determined leadership, regardless of their wisdom or merits.

In our case, no one denies the individual and collective merits of the current FSLN National Directorate members. Without being infallible, they—with their good decisions and mistakes—led the FSLN to its triumph over the Somozist dictatorship and helped the revolution survive despite the harassment of the most powerful country in the world. The current FSLN National Directorate members fulfilled the historic role that fell upon them to lead in an admirable manner. However, that does not make them essential, and it is not suitable to link the party's unity to their continuity as top FSLN leaders, especially in view of the new situation created by the defeat in the 25 February elections.

Each and every one of the FSLN current National Directorate leaders, as well as its militants, can aspire to hold the top leadership posts that are up for election at the First FSLN Congress, scheduled for early next year. We do not think it is healthy to suggest that the National Directorate's "historic authority should be maintained for the sake of the unity and survival of the party and must not be subject to discussion at the Congress. Quite the opposite, the Congress must reaffirm the unquestionable historic leadership of the National Directorate, and the new FSLN organizational chart must reflect this." That point of view prompts Diaz Lacayo to suggest the possibility that the FSLN, as a political party, should have a National Directorate (the same one) and new posts of executive authorities elected by the Congress, "posts which members of the National Directorate can aspire to hold as individuals, and whose relationship

with the National Directorate must be well defined in the statutes that must also be approved by the Congress."

It seems that out of the desire to preserve the continuity of the current National Directorate, it is suggested that that a two-headed party emerge out of the Congress, something which would be entirely counterproductive. I get the impression, based on talks with fellow party members and what I have understood from the documents that came out at the FSLN Militants National Assembly, that the objective of modernizing and democratizing the FSLN must be accomplished by reorganizing all of its structures, without excluding the National Directorate. Even some current National Directorate members have publicly stated this. Therefore, one can expect that a new and democratically elected organism to guide the party will come out of the Congress, because I feel the very structure of the National Directorate is obsolete.

Accepting the invitation to all militants, sympathizers, and people in general to contribute to the success of the First FSLN Congress, I express my views on the matter with all sincerity because I honestly believe the FSLN's political future hinges on its authentic democratization.

Government Returns Honduran Fishing Boats

PA2807164790 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2242 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Managua, 26 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The Government of Nicaragua today started to return the 40 Honduran boats detained by the Nicaraguan Navy for "illegally" fishing in its territorial waters, particularly in the Gulf of Fonseca, in the Pacific Ocean.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry's spokesperson, Claudia Paniagua, told ACAN-EFE that Violeta Chamorro's Government decided to return the boats to Honduras as a "sign of goodwill," to resolve the problem through mutual understanding.

Paniagua added that the Honduran fishermen were exonerated from paying the fine established when foreign boats are captured for fishing illegally.

The spokesperson also said the that Honduran Government accepted the Nicaraguan proposal to form a mixed commission to investigate the incident which resulted in the detention of the fishing boats.

On 31 July, the Honduran Government will sent to Managua a delegation headed by Luis Alonzo Discua, commander of the Naval Forces of that nation, to meet with a Nicaraguan delegation and discuss illegal fishing.

Diplomatic Corps Asked To Help Flood Victims

PA2907191290 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] The northern Atlantic coast region needs utmost solidarity and aid from all sectors to overcome the disaster situation it is experiencing as a result of the flooding of rivers. Diarrhea, malaria, and scabies are the main illnesses faced by the local people. Our brothers of the northern Atlantic coast urgently need food, medicine, clothing, farm tools, and household goods. They need our immediate contribution to help them in these criticial moments. The situation is so serious that the emergency committee held a briefing for the diplomatic corps to provide details of the situation and, in this way, to obtain the cooperation of friendly governments and peoples. This is what Jose Pallais, coordinator of the emergency committee, said when he explained to the diplomatic corps the situation of the people in the northern Atlantic coast.

[Begin Pallais recording] The emergency committee for the Atlantic coast is headed by the Nicaraguan president, and she has appointed me as its coordinator. I just want to briefly explain the situation in the northern Atlantic coast region. Food supplies to this region after 25 April [words indistinct] were interrupted. There has also been an increase of 30,000 people who have returned to the region. Many of them have returned through the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] and a great majority through their own means. The flooding occurred in this situation in which there were no food supplies or communications with the Pacific coast region. The floods totally affected the cultivated land, making it impossible for the region to supply itself with crops. All these factors have produced an explosive situation in which approximately 106,000 are going hungry. The missions sent to evaluate the situation have been able to confirm this. You have been invited here to hear about this situation. I just wanted to make this brief introduction before the director of the Nicaraguan Institute for the Development of the Autonomous Regions of the Atlantic Coast gives you more detailed information. I want to ask for your governments and peoples' cooperation and generosity with our Nicaraguan brothers who are suffering in the northern Atlantic coast region. [end recording]

Editorial Examines Future Role of Media

PA2907170690 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 25 Jul 90 pp 1,5

[Editorial by Carlos F. Chammoro Barrios: "BARRICADA in the Opposition"]

[Text] BARRICADA today marks its 11th anniversary amid a worrisome atmosphere of uncertainty about the future of the freedom of expression in our country, when the UNO [National Opposition Union] government has barely been in office for three months.

The aggressions suffered by journalists of this newspaper in the hands of extremists linked to the government; the arbitrary closure of Extravision; the "economic asphyxiation" campaign unleashed by government officials against independent media; and the attack on Radio Corporacion deserve our strongest condemnation.

This chain of violations of the right to inform have emphasized the uppermost position that the protection of the revolution's achievements in the democratic communication sector has within the opposition's priorities concerning the defense of democratic freedom. That is, above all, this newspaper's most valuable principle, and we renew the pledge today despite the adverse circumstances that surround us and the risks that this involves.

At BARRICADA we are not afraid of revengeful people who want to impose the law of the jungle in the country. The polarization being encouraged by regressive groups tends, in turn, to worsen given the government's irresponsible economic policies, and it must be countered with ideas—but also with firmness. A competitive journalism, like the one we try to create every day in BARRICADA's pages, will always be compatible with the exercise of a responsible, truthful, and decisive professional work that rejects sectarian information. The work of informing and orienting the people's opinion from the very heart of the social conflict implies, first of all, the obligation to help strengthen the search for democracy, equity, and social justice with the participation of the people's majority—without whom no viable solution could exist for anyone. Such is the conviction we have when rejecting polarization.

BARRICADA was founded 11 years ago as a result of the freedom of expression won by the revolution. It was forged as a journalistic institution by struggling hand in hand with the people to achieve their goals of democracy, deep socioeconomic changes, national independence, and sovereignty. We went to war when it was necessary, and we struggled tirelessly for the peace that Sandinism planned with audacity and heroism, until the country embarked on the road for democracy and structural changes.

In this new phase, now at peace, the defense of these achievements demands that BARRICADA supervise the existence of a de jure state, which has been violated during the first three months of this administration, and sponsor the strengthening of democratic institutions inherited from the revolution. However, we are also convinced that one of the most important missions of the revolution's newspaper is to contribute toward the renewal and democratization process that has been launched by the Sandinist National Liberation Front and the people's organizations. Therein lies the true democratizing potential of the country's vanguard social forces and, in the last instance, the possibility of keeping the whole nation united and bringing it out of the crisis. BARRICADA must become an open forum for the popular and national debate, provided that the daily struggles are not subordinate to an academic discussion without restrictions—except that of demanding a constructive and unified spirit.

This newspaper was nursed by Sandinism's commitment to the people and the nation, and we will strongly adhere to the defense of those principles. Our fundamental commitment will still be to defend the interests of the country's majority sectors and the downtrodden. We must defend their individual rights or those rights earned by their organizations and those that will be created in the future.

So, in the face of the accelerated deterioriation of the people's economy, as a result of a dictatorial economic policy, we must unavoidably call attention to the urgent need—within the opposition ranks—to present economic and social alternatives to cope with the grave crisis the people are experiencing.

From BARRICADA, we are calling on all political and mass leaders and experts to take the initiative with regard to the government to draft an action plan that will coherently direct each struggle, big or small, that remains at issue after the strike.

As for our adversaries—whose respect for this newspaper's opinions and information is an indicator of the prestige and reliability BARRICADA has earned—we invite them to set aside futile vendettas and to contribute with a patriotic spirit to solve the nation's problems.

BARRICADA begins the second year of its second decade with the maturity obtained by an organization in the process of renewal, and ready to help in the modernization of national journalism. Conscientious readers are demanding a visionary, in-depth, and pleasant journalism that is diligent like Nicaraguans and is also capable of faithfully describing a more complex reality and of giving answers in light of the new alternatives facing our society.

We are in favor of increasing the critical awareness of people; of satisfying their greatest needs for information and entertainment; and of promoting values that help to overcome obscurantism, fraud, and any sort of discrimination. Above all, we are willing to struggle resolutely to defend our national identity which we won with blood and sacrifice.

These are the commitments we are renewing today.

President Swears in Supreme Court President

PA2707190190 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Nicaraguan President Violeta de Chamorro swore in Dr. Orlando Trejos Somarriba as President of the Supreme Court of Justice during a solemn ceremony that took place at the presidential palace. Referring to his future legal work, Dr. Trejos Somarriba said:

[Begin Trejos recording] I am just one of nine judicial branch magistrates with one vote just like the others. We are all going to work without any difference whatsover, subject only to the Constitution and the laws. We are going to see how we can guarantee citizens' rights in the best way possible. [end recording]

Afterward, President Chamorro received a delegation belonging to Chinandega's UNO [National Opposition

Union] political council, who reiterated their political and moral support for her government.

Panama

No Plans To Break Relations With Cuba

PA2707172190 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 27 Jul 90 p 24b

[Text] Panama City (ANSA)—The Panamanian Government "does not contemplate breaking relations with Cuba," despite the existing critical differences, an official spokesperson for the Panamanian Foreign Ministry announced on 26 July.

Relations between Cuba and Panama are at their lowest point since the United States invaded Panama and overthrew General Manuel Antonio Noriega last December.

Cuba has accused the government of Guillermo Endara of being a U.S. puppet, while Panama has expelled 12 Cuban diplomats, including Ambassador Lazaro Mora.

Felicidad Sieiro, Noriega's wife, three daughters, and other close relatives were given asylum in the Cuban Embassy.

Article on Second Installment of U.S. Aid

PA2607173690 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 25 Jul 90 p 2-B

[Unattributed article: "Second Installment of 'Aid' via Agreement"]

[Text] The governments of the United States and Panama yesterday signed a so-called agreement; we do not know anything about the conditions under which the agreement was signed. According to the agreement, the Central American country will receive $107.9 million as the second installment of the aid—which was offered by President Bush in the wake of the Panama invasion—that was cut and approved with delays by the U.S. Congress. The "supplementary emergency aid" totals $420 million.

This second installment will be applied to a program to revive the private sector and will be implemented through the National Bank of Panama—in its capacity as the government's financial agent—and a National Economic Council of the Panamanian Government that will "issue the guidelines on the policies that the program will pursue. [quotation marks as published]

According to a press communique issued by the U.S. Embassy's Information Service in Panama that circulated yesterday, "all private banks with general permits to operate in Panama may participate in the credit expansion program and will be able to offer loans to the private sector for a term of up to five years." The amount of this second installment of the aid and the needs that it will target are barely a remedy for the difficult situation that the Isthmian country's economy is facing in the wake of the measures that the United States adopted against the narcodictator Noriega that culminated with the invasion, which dismantled the tyranny, but also left a high social and economic cost: It further sank Panama.

'Negative Impact' of Withdrawal of Bases Viewed

PA2807205090 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 22 Jul 90 pp 1-A, 4-A

[Editorial: "The Debate Over the 'Strategy'"]

[Text] We will discuss the negative impact on the Panamanian economy of the withdrawal of U.S. miltitary bases, something that we presume will not happen overnight on 31 December 1999 but gradually in the near future.

In a recent trip to Washington, President Guillermo Endara told U.S. President George Bush, his advisers, and lawmakers that Panama will not sign any agreement with the United States to extend the presence of U.S. troops in Panama beyond 2000. The Panamanian foreign minister has stated the same on different occasions. Panama will take a course different from the Philippines, Spain, Greece, and Turkey, among others, that have granted the United States the facilities for bases. We must add that the economic impact of that presence in the aforementioned countries is infinitely smaller than the favorable economic impact on Panama, because the economies of those countries are much bigger.

Each government decision has its postive and negative aspects. On the positive side, it is felt, we have the "defense of our sovereignty." To be sure, the other countries that have signed agreements on military bases do not agree with this argument. The negative aspect of the Panamanian stance of not negotiating the continuation of those bases beyond 2000 is not emotional, and, thus, much easier to calculate. The economic "strategy" includes the obligation to present to the Panamanian people the negative economic picture of the withdrawal of the U.S. bases and the measures the government proposes to take to offset them. To fail to do so is to invite Panamanians to jump into an abyss without providing the adequate parachute that will take them to progress instead of doom. We cannot close an external source of employment and income revenues without explaining how we are going to replace jobs and lost revenues.

According to data for 1986, the U.S. Army hires 5,500 Panamanians at the military bases and pays yearly 81.2 million balboas in salaries. The "strategy" must tell those employees and all citizens what measures it will take to seek new jobs for those 5,500 Panamanians at the above-mentioned salaries. To be on an equal footing with those wages that come from a foreign source, it would become necessary to seek much higher internal sources of salaries.

The U.S. Army also spends 47 million balboas annually in Panama to purchase products and obtain services. Panama will loose these 47 million balboas when the military bases agreement ends in the year 2000. The "strategy" does not mention how we will make up for such an appreciable loss in Panamanian revenues.

U.S. employees in military bases make disbursements in Panama that amount to 60 million balboas every year. These disbursements are mainly made to small commercial outlets for food, beverages, and entertainment and to pay for apartment rentals and hotels. The commercial sector in Panama will, thus, suddenly loose 60 million balboas of its annual income. The "strategy" does not indicate how the Panamanian economic system is to replace these revenues it currently receives.

But the problem does not stop here. In addition to the 81.2 million balboas paid by the U.S. Army to Panamanian employees every year, it also employs 2,500 civilian U.S. citizens. The salaries of these employees are not known but presumably they amount to another 60 million balboas. This money will not circulate in Panama either after the agreement ends.

In short, when the U.S. troops leave the bases, Panama will loose approximately 250 million balboas a year. To this we would also have to add the progressive economic impact that this action will have on every balboa, something that is difficult to estimate but not to imagine. The "strategy" completely ignores that indirect aspect of the Canal Zone.

There are no numbers available to indicate how much the United States pays per year to each one of the countries for the use of military bases, but the amount oscillates at one billion balboas per year to each country. From a strictly economic perspective, and not an emotional one, Panama will stop receiving—besides the annual 250 million balboas—the income from leasing which the bases could produce to solve the social and unemployment problems that drown the country.

Editorial Views Economic 'Strategy,' U.S. Aid

PA2807205190 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 25 Jul 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Debate Over 'Strategy'—VIII—Last Part"]

[Text] Seven long months have passed and the government has been unable to demonstrate to the citizens that it has the political motivation, administrative capacity, and intellectual ability to present a cogent and practical economic development program approved by consensus to permit our country to solve its most pressing problem, i.e., providing jobs for over 1 million malnourished Panamanians and successfully solving the unemployment problem of over 150,000 idle workers. It should have started this study on 1 January but it seems that the government authorities' most pressing need was to stretch their hands to Uncle Sam and see how much they could obtain as a donation—the $240-million donation announced in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE of 7 July.

The donation agreement signed on 7 July must have been negotiated by the Panamanian and U.S. authorities several months earlier, but the government had never announced its terms. The agreement was signed on 7 July, and it was not until 17 July, when the OFFICIAL GAZETTE was published, that we Panamanians learned about it. Reading it reminded us of Gulliver, who was subdued with hundreds of pieces of twine around his body. Let every body see the truth: the conditions of the donation are harsh. The government did not tell the citizens.

We have no idea when the study of the "strategy" began. However, the government presented it to the citizens just a few weeks ago. In view of the urgency of dealing with our social problems, the fact that it took seven months for the affected persons to learn about it is unforgivable. Economists who have kept track of the document report that, basically, it was drafted in 1986 by technicians employed by the narco-tyranny.

The purpose of this commentary is not to point out advantages or disadvantages of the "strategy" or to suggest changes or modifications. The truth is that the "strategy" has been criticized strongly and destructively. No one can hide the sun with one finger. Either the implementation methods, or the way that the "strategy" has been presented, or the essence of the "strategy," or all of this, have placed the "strategy" in such a bad light that a continued debate on it would be useless and even cruel.

One of the extraordinary situations we find in today's Panamanian political life is that all the citizens support the President. With the exception of some remnants of the drug-trafficking tyranny, there is no single Panamanian not willing to cooperate in having a successful democratic administration. However, it is the president, and nobody else, who has to guide the government, indicate the road to be taken, and assume responsibility for his administration. The president has very broad support from independent sectors.

The "strategy" has reached its final destination. Now it is up to the president to put together his own program, and he can count on advice from many Panamanians who want his government to succeed and who in good faith want to help him.

Vice President on Economy, Drug Trafficking

PA2607164490 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Panamanian Government and Justice Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon has stated that frequent threats against government officials are appearing because the Panamanian Government is dismantling drug trafficking activities in Panama.

Today, Minister Arias Calderon said that it is our duty to think about future challenges amid the freedom in which we now live. Arias Calderon made these statements in regard to the efforts that the current government is making to revitalize the country's economy, which is an issue that concerns all of the country's political, social, and economic groups.

[Begin Arias recording] We no longer think so much about traumas of the past. We are beginning to think about future challenges. We are thinking about economic reconstruction, public services, the preparations to run the Panama Canal, and our ties with Central America and Europe.

An EEC delegate is beginning a visit to Panama today. He has come here to hold talks with the various government institutions in regard to the way in which we can improve our relations with the EEC. He has come specifically to serve as an adviser to the Panamanian Government in order to help us identify the various ways we can increase and improve our economic links to Central America. [end recording]

Arias Calderon also talked about the death threats against Panamanian National Police Chief Colonel Eduardo Herrera and Customs Director Rodrigo Arosemena as a result of drug confiscations conducted during the last few days.

[Begin Arias recording] This involves a very real and tangible reality—namely, that the government was an accomplice of the drug traffickers under the dictatorship; however, under democracy the government is fighting the drug trafficking. That is why the officials who are on the frontline of this struggle are being threatened. [end recording]

Minister on Economic Situation, Prospects

PA3007004690 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Jul 90 p 15-A

[Report by Rosa E. Coronado]

[Text] During the weekly meeting of the Panama Lions Club which took place on the evening of 25 July in the Bahia Hall of the Union Club, Guillermo Ford, second vice president and minister of planning and economic policy, analyzed Panama's credit situation. Ford underscored that Panama's credits have stagnated, and that it will be a "challenge" to establish an economy in keeping with the country's needs.

Planning Minister Ford said that on 31 December 1989, Panama owed $540 million in overdue payments to three financial institutions. The amount owed to private banks surpassed $2.2 billion, with substantial amounts overdue. In order to resolve the problem, approximately $130 million from the aid package donated by the United States were set aside, the Panamanian Government contributed an equal amount, and it asked the governments of Japan, Taiwan, and the EEC to donate the balance. With a $150-million loan from the U.S. Treasury, Panama will be able to pay off its $540 million in overdue payments.

Regarding the debt with private banks, Ford said that in-depth and serious negotiations will be conducted in an effort to pay the lowest amounts possible. He said that modern mechanisms will be used to minimize the cost of the heavy burden of credits, which, he said, "were granted in a rather free and relaxed manner."

Ford announced that a renegotiation commission has been designated, and that Panama expects the negotiations to last at least one and one-half years or perhaps a little longer, because they will be conducted face to face with the Panamanian people.

Regarding the budget, Ford said that among the new government's foremost tasks was to sensibly prepare a budget, following three years during which budgets had not been sent to the Legislative Assembly for examination. He added that the budget remains balanced, and that in the first six months of this year it had a surplus of $84 million, thanks to the administrative honesty with which it had been handled.

Concerning the Special Social Fund [Fondo Especial Social—FES], Ford announced that it has been approved by the Cabinet Council and that today it will be sent to the Legislative Assembly's Budget Commission for examination.

Twenty million dollars in seed capital has been set aside for the initiation of this plan, which, as in the past will take the country's civic clubs into account. However, the FES board of directors is making efforts that are expected to lead to donations and/or soft loans, up to $250 million of which will be guaranted by the national government.

Ford said that the unemployment rate, which on 31 December 1989 was 31 percent, dropped to 22 percent following the 20 December U.S. military action. "However, it is this government's goal to do everything within its power in the shortest time possible to reduce this index to a maximum of 10 percent, in order to restore the Panamanian people's honest "way of life."

The economic plan that, in Ford's own words, has prompted "so much discomfort and so many reactions," is not intended as an imposition, and it has never been purported to be perfect or unique. It is only an effort to "draw up an economic program among all of the country's productive sectors to prevent foreign impositions.

Ford added that President Endara's government is not "setting a trap" like the one in Law No. 3. Instead, it is extending invitations to all of the sectors so that together they can approach the three international financial institutions and present to them the Republic of Panama's economic plan. Even if they do not give us a dollar, he said, we will have the satisfaction of knowing that the

plan was custom-made by Panamanians for Panama, and with the Panamanians' honesty.

Ford said that he is optimistic about Panama's future, and pointed to the banking sector's normalization as one of the factors that have gone unnoticed. He stressed that the banking system is control-free and open, and that this had to be accomplished in order to gain financial mediation and guarantee future loans.

Ford said that the next three years must be taken advantage of, not because they will be years of rapid growth, but because we will have nonrecurrent incomes that we must take advantage of and not squander. Within that period we must gradually adapt the national economy to ensure a little economic stability.

To conclude, Ford asked the sectors not to be negative. He said that "what the government is presenting has no loopholes and conceals nothing," and he added: "We are willing to listen to criticisms, suggestions, and recommendations, so that one day, when this country rises, we will not even remember its leaders' names but what we all accomplished together.

Report on Links Between Noriega, Castro, Cartel

PA3007041890 Panama City EL SIGLO DOMINICAL in Spanish 29 Jul 90 p 1

[Report by Aneldo Arosemena]

[Text] Felicidad Sieiro de Noriega and her three daughters, Sandra, Lorena, and Thays, have left Cuba and are staying in the Dominican Republic in a luxurious residence owned by General Rene Beauchamp, former chief of the Army's General Staff. They are under heavy protection in the face of a possible attempt on their lives if Manuel Antonio Noriega decides to testify against Fidel Castro as some of his lawyers have suggested.

Military intelligence sources to which EL SIGLO had access told this newspaper that CIA circles and Noriega's defense lawyers expect him to testify against the Cuban leader, linking him to the international drug trafficking to the United States. Such testimony would be a formula to seek an agreement with the ousted military officer so that, if he is convicted by a Miami court, he will be set free after a few years in jail.

The Noriegas are living in a luxurious residence in Santo Domingo owned by Gen. Beauchamp, a very influential person in his country. Beauchamp fought on the U.S. side in 1965 when the United States invaded the Dominican Republic. In the recent elections, the retired military officer ran for senator in Joaquin Balaguer's party but was not elected.

Noriega's wife and daughters live practically in seclusion in Beauchamp's house, except for Sandra, who is married to Beauchamp's son and has a well-defined immigration status.

Felicidad and her daughters sought refuge at the Cuban Embassy in Panama on 20 December and remained there until 2 March when the Panamanian Foreign Ministry granted them safe-conduct to travel to Havana. They stayed in Cuba until early July. While in Cuba, they were "virtually prisoners" of the Cuban Government, which, under the pretext of threats against their security, kept them under house arrest.

The intelligence sources added that the narco-dictator's wife left Cuba following lengthy negotiations between Beauchamp's family and Castro's regime. After they arrived in the Dominican Republic, the daughters of the ousted Panamanian strongman began to pressure Gen. Beauchamp to get them U.S. visas to visit Noriega in his Miami cell.

In March, Noriega's lawyers traveled to Cuba to talk with the Cuban leader to negotiate some evidence that would help Noriega in the trial that is to be held in January 1991. Fidel agreed to it and confirmed this to Brazilian reporters during President Collor de Mello's inauguration. He said that he had information that will exonerate Noriega from the drug-trafficking accusations.

According to our information, the evidence consists of recordings of conversations between Noriega and Fidel Castro with the participation of Major Felipe Camargo, Jose Isabel Blandon, and Enrique "Kike" Pretelt. In these conversations, they discussed a drug laboratory owned by the Medellin Cartel that operated in the thick Darien jungle and was destroyed by the former Panama Defense Forces [FDP] in 1984.

A key figure in this complex web of drugs and espionage is Felipe Camargo, the G-2's former executive officer who is being held at Renacer Jail. He was the intelligence source that was the contact between the Medellin Cartel and Noriega, through a commercial office that the Cubans had in the Colon Free Zone. Camargo made many trips to Cuba, alone or accompanied by Noriega. Regarding this, we must mention the testimony that Captain Augusto Villalaz gave. He disclosed that Camargo accompanied him many times to Cuba on trips that were periodically made to get weapons for the dismantled FDP. Camargo was also the Panamanian intelligence services' link with other security agencies in Cuba, Nicaragua, and the Soviet Union.

It was reported that Camargo worked for Cuban intelligence services behind Noriega's back and organized, outside the FDP, a thick network of paid informers of Cuban security. This is a network that, although discovered and purged from the new Public Force, still exists, a top Public Force official told EL SIGLO. Regarding this, it is good to know Camargo's own remarks in an interview to U.S. journalist Andres Openhaimer.

Fidel Castro had compromising links with the drug-trafficking world. The motivations of the two sides were different. To Fidel, the facilities he gave to international drug traffickers to introduce drugs into the United States are the result of his dogmatic and orthodox concept of

"total war against imperialism," while this connection resulted in fat profits for the drug lords.

Noriega knew how to take advantage of both sides for his own personal gain and now, facing the alternative of whether to talk or not to get concessions from U.S. justice, he has to make a choice because his revelations could cost him the lives of his relatives who sought refuge in Santo Domingo.

Note from the Editor: The information contained in this report is the result of investigations conducted by people linked to U.S. intelligence services with connections in Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba. Obviously, we have only disclosed a part of it. The name of the source is being withheld to get more details in the future, and we are willing to face any legal responsibility that may derive from the disclosure of this information.

Hard Line Asked for Against Pro-Noriega Groups

PA2907135090 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 26 Jul 90 p4

[Editorial: "Weakness and Political Blunders"]

[Text] The National Government's decision to give in to the demands by the Colon Free Zone transporters has caused great displeasure in the community. The Panamanian people, who have always demanded the replacement of the old Noriega structures in the country, feel frustrated.

We really do not understand on what grounds the governmnet based its decision to agree to most of the demands presented by the transporters. An agreement was reached to end the strike that caused $30 million in losses. However, the Concession Holders Association of the Colon Free Zone has said that the agreements are illegal because the association was not consulted and it does not accept them.

During the past years, the tranporters blackmailed every Colon Free Zone manager. Since the government at the time backed the transporters, the institution's efficiency was sacrificed for the sake of politics and demagoguery.

The Cabinet Council yesterday discussed the Colon Free Zone crisis, after several media sources questioned the government's decision to give in to the transporters' pressures, and the Concession Holders Association's claim that the government adopted a weak stand in the Colon crisis. According to the association, "the conditions set by sectors linked to the past were accepted for the sake of ending the strike."

However, an extremely long communique says that "the list of demands presented by the transporters is subject to the consideration and decision by the Colon Free Zone, within the perspectives of the government's economic policy, to overcome distortions that prevent development, without which the urgent needs of the residents of Colon cannot be solved." These are empty words that do not mean anything if we bear in mind that Juan Santamaria, secretary general of the Serafin Nino Cooperative has expressed satisfaction with having attained 10 of the 11 demands that led the transporters to decree the strike.

Today Panamanians are asking themselves; What good are the president's ministers if they can not deal with situations like the one at the Colon Free Zone? What role do these ministers play, if at no time during the negotiations did we hear that the Economic Cabinet was taking care of the matter?

However, we can say that the antiriot squads that arrived to enforce the right to freedom of movement contained in the Constitution acted impartially, despite the provocation by the transporters of blocking the accesses to the Free Zone. It is irritating to see pro-Noriega groups, which have no grounds for their complaints, get 99.9 percent of their demands accepted. This is a clear mockery of Panamanians in their right minds.

Guillermo Endara must bear in mind that the large civilist masses brought him to power—not the pro-Noriega groups who insulted him, beat him, and left the nation bankrupt. Please Mr. President, act in the right manner. Eradicate from our country anything that smells of Noriega. Prove that you have character. Put both of your feet on the ground so that they can feel that everytime these blunders are made, they are undermining the government's bases. Panama is clamoring for a radical change. It is time to eliminate all the leeches that want to keep on sucking the government's blood. Remember the teachers' slogan when they were in the oppposition: Now or Never!

Alleged M-20 Group Breaks Into House

PA2907153290 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 27 Jul 90 pp 1, 34

[Text] CRITICA LIBRE has learned that last night, heavily armed members of an alleged subversive group, the so-called M-20, stormed a Hato Pintado neighborhood home owned by civic crusade militants.

Six individuals, who had their faces covered and were carrying .38-caliber revolvers and Uzi machine guns, broke into house no. C-12 owned by the Villalobos family at approximately 2000 last night, 26 July, and proceeded to steal the gold jewelry and passports owned by the victims.

According to Mrs. Villalobos, the individuals were nervous and, as they threatened to kill her and her sons, they also shouted slogans in favor of deposed Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The members of the so-called M-20 Group cut off her telephone line and, after ordering her to get down on the floor, they tried to tie up her hands so that she could not call for help.

Mrs. Villalobos said that the crooks were able to enter the house very easily because her youngest son had left the front door open. She said the six individuals wanted to kill her and her sons, and she does not know why they did not do so "because the outlaws looked like criminals."

The Villalobos family does not rule out the possibility that its participation in civic crusade activities led the so-called M-20 group to carry out this action.

According to Mrs. Villalobos, the individuals identified her as a militant of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance.

The Technical Judicial Police are investigating the incident, for which this group claimed responsibility.

The alleged subversive group claimed responsibility for the attack at My Place Bar, as well as the shooting of the U.S. Embassy and the Marine House.

Police Chief on Past Plans, Public Force

PA2907200390 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 29 Jul 90 p 1

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] National Police Chief Colonel Eduardo Herrera believes that the United States was "interested in intervening" in Panama and that is why it did not support his plan to invade Panama with the support of Panamanian, Israeli, and South American commandos so as to obtain the overthrow of General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

In a recent meeting with Panamanian legislators, Herrera commented that when it was learned in Washington that his "plan would be successful, he was nearly detained." He also said that he was told by the Senate Intelligence Committee that Noriega would be warned if Herrera tried to assassinate him.

The police director, who said he was on "the verge of retiring," explained that his action against the then commander of the Defense Forces would have consisted in "catching him" during Noriega's frequent visits to the residence of Vicky Amado.

Eduardo Herrera said that a source of the U.S. Senate told him that the United States had other "greater" interests, such as the Panama Canal and the Torrijos-Carter treaties, than supporting his plan.

According to the police chief, the North Americans, whom he acknowledged as his friends, did not want Noriega's departure "to be the result of an action by Panamanians because that would not suit their interests."

They were "greatly interested in getting in here in any possible way, and that is what they did," the Panamanian colonel added. He also said that he has received an offer to work outside Panama once his forthcoming retirement takes place.

On another topic, Herrera said the Panamanian police force must be "special and better than the ones in Miami or New York because there is big threat" from drug trafficking. Panama is a strategic point; it is a bridge and a springboard for transporting cocaine into the United States.

The police chief said drug trafficking is a "dangerous threat," so the country needs to have a force capable of resolving any problem on the borders. He also recommended the reorganization of an efficient Public Force because the "gringos are not going to stay here forever."

Col. Eduardo Herrera said the security system that exists in Costa Rica "is not applicable" to Panama because the most advisable thing for the country would be to have the Public Force with small units in all the provinces, but without tanks or planes.

Acccording to the police director, the current Public Force is "totally dependent" on the United States, but this situation must be overcome because no Panamanian wants it.

Free Zone Board of Directors Issues Communique

PA2907140890 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 27 Jul 90 p 24b

[Communique issued by the Colon Free Zone Board of Directors in Panama on 26 July]

[Text] In view of the recent events that have affected the operations of the Colon Free Zone, the Colon Free Zone Board of Directors resolves:

a) To give recognition to the seriousness, responsibility, and honesty with which the Free Zone problems are being handled and consequently to reiterate our support for the administrative work conducted by the Free Zone general and assistant managers.

b) To condemn the actions of force that obstructed the normal operations of the Free Zone and to request the corresponding authorities to adopt the necessary preventive police measures to avoid the recurrence of such actions.

c) To take up the state policy announced by the Panamanian president of eliminating the restrictions on free trade and free hiring in accordance with the Colon Free Zone's needs for development and competitiveness.

d) To instruct the Free Zone general manager to propose the necessary administrative reforms leading to the implementation of the state policy mentioned in the previous paragraph within a reasonable period of time and after having listened to all the affected groups.

Issued in Panama on 26 July 1990

Roberto Alfaro, president of the Board of Directors
Juan Chevalier, Commerce and Industries minister
Guillermo Ford, Planning and Economic Policy minister
Mario Galindo, Finance and Treasury minister
Julio Harris, Presidency minister
Ricardo Aleman, Executive Committee member
Jose Manuel Meana, Executive Committee member
Ricaurte Chang, Executive Committee member
Marco Harris, Executive Committee member
Rafael Newball, Executive Committee member
Ruben Dario Carles, comptroller general

Police Disperse Demonstrators Near Border

PA2807165190 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0143 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Panama City, 26 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—A local television station has reported that Panamanian antiriot police forces have dispersed demonstrating Panamanian transporters who were trying to close the Pan-American highway approximately one km from the Costa Rican border.

The transporters were all from the Chiriqui province, approximately 592 km from Panama City. Their intentions were to join the Costa Rican merchant's movement that closed the Panama-Costa Rican border for four days to protest Panamanian President Guillermo Endara's decision to end the system that allowed Panamanians to purchase at Costa Rican stores in the border area.

Costa Rican merchants closed the Panamerican highway to pressure the Panamanian Government into renewing the "courtesy" system that was in operation for the past 15 years. The system allowed Panamanian citizens in the bordering Paso Canoas areas to buy up to $25 in duty-free items at Costa Rican stores.

The Endara government has stated that it ended the system that allowed Panamanians to buy goods on the Costa Rican side of Paso Canoas to combat the "alarming" amount of contraband coming from Costa Rica.

Corregimiento Representatives Sworn In

PA2607154590 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Members of the provincial council of Corregimiento Representatives of Panama province were sworn in this morning at the National Lottery Auditorium. President Guillermo Endara Galimany, Second Vice President Guillermo Ford, and some state ministers attended the ceremony which was headed by Panama Province Governor Plutarco Arrocha. Olmedo Guillen, on behalf of the corregimiento representatives, talked about the main problems they are facing such as the need to increase appropriations according to the needs of the respective corregimientos. President Guillermo Endara said efforts are being made in this respect and added that ministries and autonomous and semi-autonomous institutions will support these efforts, because corregimiento representatives were a significant factor in attaining the victory of the government he heads.

Endara then talked about the problem at the Paso Canoas border area due to the elimination of the courtesy permits for Panamanians to shop at Costa Rican stores at the border area.

[Begin Endara recording] This not only a democratic government and a government of freedom, it is also a de jure state. Courtesy permits are not included in Panamanian law. I would have to violate Panamanian law to grant such courtesy permits. If such courtesy permits are going to be granted, that has to be done through a law. However, first we would have to assess if this is advisable because the time when such courtesy permits were illegally approved were times of much abuse—of a lot of abuse. Therefore, we had to suspend the so-called courtesy permits. We want the best relations, and we must have the best relations with our Costa Rican brothers because they have always been in solidarity with us. However, they are aware that we must respect the law, and such courtesy permits do not exist in our law. [end recording]

Argentina

Menem Departs for Fujimori's Inauguration

PY2707113490 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Jul (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem left for Peru today at 1144 GMT to attend the inauguration of Peruvian President-elect Alberto Fujimori. During his 72-hour visit to Peru, Menem will hold meetings with Latin American leaders.

Menem departed for Peru from the military sector of the Jorge Newbery metropolitan airport aboard the Tango 1 presidential plane. Among the members of the president's entourage are: Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa; Brigadier Andres Antonietti, the military household chief; Deputy Jose Luis Manzano; Deputy Eduardo Varela; and Fernando Niembro, the chief of the mass media secretariat.

Returns Home

PY3007023490 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2041 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Jul (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem arrived at the military sector of the Metropolitan Airport just after 1640. He came from Lima, Peru, where he participated in ceremonies in which outgoing Peruvian President Alan Garcia handed over the presidency to Alberto Fujimori, the new president.

Menem made some brief remarks on his arrival. Among other things, he ratified the statement in Lima to the effect that Argentina will offer to mediate in the diplomatic conflict between Spain and Cuba. Other Latin American nations have also offered to mediate.

Future Trade Negotiations With Japan Evaluated

PY2807023490 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1638 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Report by Daniel Santoro]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Jul (NA)—The Foreign Ministry has defined a strategy to try to get Japan to invest in Argentina. That effort will start in the next few days when Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo officially announces the Argentine response, which has been delayed for some time, to the so-called Okita Report.

This is the third Argentine effort to strengthen cooperation with Japan, the economic power of the Pacific, which in some cases is being considered as "the new enemy of the United States in the new stage of international relaxation."

The first effort was made by the Radical Civic Union government which began negotiations in an effort to get a good cooperation and economic complementation treaty. The second effort was made by Cavallo himself last year.

On that occasion Cavallo was only able to get initiatives to strengthen cultural cooperation because the talks on other issues were suspended pending the results of the economic reforms of the Peronist government.

Now that the economic turbulence of late last year has been overcome and a fragile economic stability prevails, Argentine diplomacy again stresses Japan—a country with which Argentina has trade of only about $500 million.

The repeated contacts confirm that the Japanese want serious negotiations within a reduced and stable inflationary framework. A Foreign Ministry source added that because the Americans do not have the Japanese style "they are more afraid of Japanese cars than of Soviet tanks."

The Japanese position on the Argentine situation has become a bit more flexible because in the last few weeks the Japanese Government invited President Carlos Menem to stay a few more hours in Japan after 14 November, the date of the coronation of Emperor Akihito.

Menem would remain a few more hours in Tokyo to deliver the final report to Prime Minister Kaifu on the possibility of bilateral cooperation. He will only stay a few more hours because Menem will be starting an official visit to the PRC.

The government is now in a hurry to deliver the report because Japanese businessmen want to invest millions of dollars in fishing, metallurgy, and railroads.

One of the Japanese projects is to build floating silos in the River Plate basin to store Argentine grains for export.

Also Japanese diplomats recently disclosed to a Chilean mission that they are willing to finance the creation of new border passes between Argentina and Chile, and a railroad linking the Pacific with the Atlantic through southern Brazil.

The Okita Report, which is named after former Finance Minister Saburo Okita, has 1,600 pages, and it has been waiting for an answer from the Argentine Government for two years. When the Okita Report was released it created a controversy because the proposal advocated an agricultural export model for Argentina.

Cavallo recommended that his close aides read the report and prepare the response to be delivered to the Japanese ambassador in a solemn act which was scheduled for 1 August in the Foreign Ministry.

However, due to the meeting of the Brazilian, Argentine, and Uruguayan foreign ministers in Sao Paulo to prepare a joint answer to President George Bush's "Americas Initiative," the delivery was postponed for another occasion but no date was given thus showing that this case was badly handled.

However, it is not a bad idea to try to integrate with the United States a free zone from Alaska to Ushuaia, and also encourage greater cooperation with Japan because even U.S. state governors are seeking investors in Japan.

But the Okita Report proposes an agricultural export model that should be thoroughly debated by national political leaders to define in accordance with the country's interests the profile Argentina should have after the privatizations, and before such a model is imposed as part of a new international work order.

Energy Emergency Declared To Aid Restructuring

PY2707233090 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 27 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The government yesterday declared a state of emergency in the energy sector, particularly pinpointing the Buenos Aires Power Company (SEGBA) and the distribution board Agua y Energia [Water and Energy].

An official communique said that the measure had been taken to "ensure that the public receives service with adequate technical and economic resources."

The decree, announced last night and numbered 1374, also places a "subject to total privatization" stamp on SEGBA and orders the creation of a committee to draft a privatization plan within 60 days on both Agua y Energia and the Northern Patagonian Hydroelectric Plant.

Similar schemes will have to be compiled on the Salto Grande hydroelectric plant and the Yacyreta binational dam.

The state of emergency will last until December 31 and gives the government wide discretion in restructuring the sector without having to go through Congress.

As far as the privatization of SEGBA is concerned, the decree does foresee congressional consideration but cites the company's "deterioration" as an appropiate stimulus for private capital.

It continues that obsolete equipment meant that the company was operating at only 60 to 70 percent of its capacity.

The committee formed to mull over the other sales, meanwhile, is to be chaired by Energy Undersecretary Julio Cesar Araoz and Treasury Undersecretary Saul Bouer.

15 Medellin Cartel Members Arrested

PY2807015490 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0024 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] San Miguel de Tucuman, 27 Jul (TELAM)—Alberto Lestelle, secretary for the prevention of drug addiction and for the fight against drug trafficking, has reported that 15 second-echelon Colombian traffickers of the Medellin Cartel were arrestd "while sounding out the possibility of establishing drug processing plants" in Argentina.

In statements to the radio station LV 12 Radio Independencia, Lestelle said that the arrests may have been kept secret "to avoid hindering the investigations, because it is believed that the detainees can provide significant information for dismantling other branches of the main drug command in Argentina."

Destelle added that in the next few days he will make significant announcements linked with the presence of Colombian drug traffickers in our country. The possibility of performing joint control operations with logistical support of the Armed Forces in the northwestern region of Argentina has not been ruled out.

Bolivia

Paz Zamora Meets European Parliament President

PY2707034290 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Excerpt] European Parliament President Enrique Baron Crespo today met with President Jaime Paz Zamora at the Government Palace. Paz Zamora expressed his satisfaction over Baron Crespo's visit and over the EEC cooperation with Bolivia.

[Begin Paz Zamora recording] This is a special moment for Bolivian-EEC relations. A new stage of these relations is beginning not only for Bolivia, but for all Latin America. With great satisfaction, we have observed how the EEC has been cooperating with our country. I believe that Bolivia has received more assistance and support from the EEC than any other Latin American country.

Most of all, however, it has been very important for us to observe how much the EEC sympathized with the problems that directly concern us Bolivians, such as the coca replacement program and the antidrug trafficking fight. [end recording]

Baron on Antidrug Struggle

PY2707235690 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2103 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] La Paz, 26 Jul (EFE)—European Parliament President Enrique Baron said today that the illegal production of drugs in Latin America seems to be an unavoidable problem stemming from the economic situation of the drug producing countries.

He made these remarks during a long speech at the special session held by the congress to welcome him. Baron, a Spanish citizen, is touring Latin America. He arrived in Bolivia last night for a three-day official visit. Baron conveyed the greeting of the European citizens and recalled the following saying: "Bolivian silver has promoted European development."

In his speech Baron said: "It has been observed that as indebtedness increases, and exports decrease, people tend to return to all ways of parallel economy: smuggling, or arms and drug trafficking."

Baron said, however, that the exclusive use of the force to destroy coca farms is a policy that "is not in keeping with" the interests of the Bolivian people. Coca producers should be granted serious alternatives before the implementation of erradication projects.

He said: "The use of force and armed intervention sometimes may conceal very dubious objectives."

Bolivia is the second coca producer after Peru with 120,000 metric tons per year.

Baron said that coca-producing countries, the other Latin American countries, the United States, Europe, and the United Nations should closely cooperate to deal with drug trafficking.

He added that the EEC has already granted loans totalling $6.3 million especially to the Andean Pact countries. It is expected that Bolivia will receive $1 million of this total which will be disbursed during 1990.

Baron said that the EEC ministries have agreed to grant Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia $100 million in special aid to support the antidrug struggle. These funds will be disbursed over four years.

During the congressional session which lasted longer than scheduled on the official agenda, Bolivian Vice President Luis Ossio Sangines said that Bolivia receives cooperation mostly from the EEC countries. He added that Spain is regarded as "the door for Ibero-America."

Fernando Kieffer, president of the Chamber of Deputies, said that the future, the development, and the strengthening of the continental democracy will depend on the mutual cooperation between European and Latin American countries.

Senate President Gonzalo Valda requested Baron's support to obtain favorable treatment for Bolivia within the General System of Preferences and to meet its 100-year-old maritime claim.

Following the congressional session, Baron met with President Jaime Paz Zamora for more than three hours.

Brazil

Chilean President Ends Official Visit

PY2807012090 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Chilean President Patricio Aylwin left Brazil today at the end of a three-day visit during which several bilateral argeements were signed. According to the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, the Chilean president's visit strengthened the Brazilian-Chilean friendship. Itamaraty spokesman Jose Vicente Pimentel said that very important bilateral agreements were signed on drug trafficking repression and scientific and technical cooperation, ranging from biotechnology to environment and electronics. Pimentel said that Brazil hopes that Chile will integrate itself into the future Latin American common market through gradual agreements signed within ALADI [Latin American Integration Association].

[Begin Pimentel recording] Chile now prefers to wait for the completion of the integration process between Brazil and Argentina. Chile will then decide whether to fully join this integration process. Independently of this, bilateral agreements—probably of partial scope—will be negotiated within ALADI. These agreements will provide for mutual advantages that will promote trade. [end recording]

This evening [as heard], Aylwin will leave Brazil for Peru, where he will attend Alberto Fujimori's inauguration.

Foreign Minister Starts Official Visit to Italy

PY2807165890 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek has started his official visit to Italy. He will meet with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, with whom he will discuss subjects such as preservation of the environment, changes taking place in East Europe, and unification of the two Germanies.

The two ministers will also exchange points of view on the debt problem in developing countries and the meeting of industrialized countries that took place in the U.S. city of Houston a few weeks ago.

Rezek will return to Brasilia on Tuesday, 31 July; before doing so he will be received by Pope John Paul II.

Government Concerned About Colombian Traffickers

PY2807021490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2143 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 27 Jul (EFE)—Justice Minister Bernardo Cabral said here today that the Brazilian Government fears that the Colombian drug cartels may decide to transfer their operations center to Brazil.

During a news conference, Cabral said that the government is "concerned" about the possibility that drug traffickers may establish their headquarters in Brazil, altough he warned that "it will not be easy for them."

The minister added that the government is alarmed over the reports on the supply of drugs even to nine-year-old schoolchildren.

He stressed that Brazil is fighting drug trafficking but opposes the presence of foreign troops in its territory, as has been suggested by some countries.

Cabral said that Brazil "will never allow our sovereignty to be impaired under the pretext of the fight against drug trafficking."

The minister said that the unequal distribution of wealth in Brazil is the cause of violence in the cities and in rural areas, and of the increased number of so-called "dirty crimes," especially in the states of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

He said that the recent Amnesty International report on torture and crimes in Brazil "is not exaggerated but outdated," because the majority of the reported cases have already been closed.

Cabral reported that the government will in the near future issue a formal answer to this human rights organization.

He explained that "political torture is over, and we have no political prisoners," adding that "mistreatment by the police is something that many states have been unable to eradicate."

Asked about the repression of violence, Cabral insisted that this is the duty of the authorities of the Brazilian states, and that the federal government has amended some articles of the penal code, which is more than 50 years old, and has imposed stricter penalties for crimes like abduction.

President Signs Measure Granting Salary Bonus

PY2707161390 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 27 Jul 90

[All figures as heard]

[Text] Early in the morning on 27 July, President Fernando Collor de Mello signed Provisional Measure 199, which grants a 3,000-cruzeiro salary bonus to workers who earn up to 23,017.30 cruzeiros in July. The bonus will not be included in salaries nor will it be taxed, and there will be no corresponding increase in prices.

Labor Minister Antonio Rogerio Magri explained the government's decision:

[Begin Magri recording] It was established that a 3,000-cruzeiro bonus will be granted at the beginning of August, in addition to the July salary. This bonus will benefit 83 percent of the labor force, which is broken down as follows: 57 percent earn one minimum salary; 29 percent earn up to two minimum salaries; 19 percent earn up to three minimum salaries; and 14 percent earn up to four minimum salaries. This includes government employees and military personnel. [end recording]

According to this provisional measure, anyone making more than 26,017.30 cruzeiros, with the bonus included, will not be entitled to the benefit.

This decision was announced by the labor minister after a meeting with President Fernando Collor de Mello which was also attended by Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello and Justice Minister Bernardo Cabral. The meeting at Planalto Palace ended shortly after midnight last night.

This new provisional measure supersedes Provisional Measure 193, which was rendered ineffective 26 July without having been voted on by Congress. Minister Magri said that the presidential veto of the Salary Law approved by Congress was not discussed. President Collor also requested that a bill be drafted for worker participation in profit sharing.

Companies May Reinvest Profits Held by Bank

PY2807153090 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Report by Sonia Filgueiras]

[Text] The government has authorized multinational companies to use profits held at the Central Bank [CB] to reinvest in Brazil.

Multinational companies' profits and dividends held by the CB now total almost $1.5 billion. These funds are included in a program that schedules the remittance of money abroad. This program foresees a weekly remittance of money until December 1990.

At the request of several companies, the CB has decided to release these resources for investment in Brazil. The multinationals may now withdraw these funds and invest them in the productive sector for a period of at least 10 months.

To protect Brazilian exchange reserves, these funds have been held by the CB since January 1990. In other words, the funds were held as a way of preventing the escape of dollars abroad.

However, the CB still has to determine the ceiling for withdrawals. This ceiling will depend on the government's monetary policy. Experts are still calculating the economic impact of the release of funds that will be converted from dollars into cruzeiros. Because they will increase the amount of money in circulation, the government's main concern is to prevent the conversion of these funds from pushing up the inflation rate.

Power Supply Agreement Signed With Bolivia

PY2807013690 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Brazil will buy Bolivian electric power generated with natural gas to supply Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul. Brazilian National Energy Secretary Rubens Vaz da Costa and Angel Zaniel, Bolivian energy and hydrocarbons minister, today signed an agreement to this effect.

Bolivia will build a thermoelectric plant in the town of Puerto Suarez, near Corumba. The plant, which will be powered by gas, will supply electric power to Brazil. The natural gas will be conveyed through a gas pipeline to be

built by Bolivia. The entire project is budgeted at $300 million. Brazil will help Bolivia obtain World Bank financing. Under the terms of the agreement, the price paid by Brazilian consumers will be regulated by Brazilian market prices.

Sao Bernardo Ford Plant Closed After Riots

PY2807011690 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Excerpt] The strike by the Ford tool shop workers today entered its 45th day. [number as heard] After yesterday's riot, the enterprise closed its doors. The metalworkers have not yet held the meetings that were scheduled for today.

The National Association of Automotive Vehicle Manufacturers, Anfavea, has released a note lamenting the riots at the Ford of Brazil plant in Sao Bernardo do Campo. The note says that the methods that specific groups of workers have used to show their displeasure are by no means justified. The association says that only through responsible dialogue will it be possible to overcome disagreement.

In turn, Labor Minister Rogerio Magre today said that the Ford company lacked sensitivity when negotiating with its workers, and that this is the reason for the continuation of the strike, which has lasted 45 days.

The minister said that his ministry is ready to act as mediator in any strike, but that the courts are responsible for deciding whether a strike is justified. [passage omitted]

High-Grade Indium Ore Discovered in Goias State

PY2807204090 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Jul 90 p 16

[Excerpts] Brasilia—In homage to the Ianomami Indians, researcher Nilson Francisquini Botelho from the Geoscience Institute at the Brasilia University gave the name "Ianomamita" to the indium-bearing ore he discovered while analyzing grenite samples from the Monte Alegre region in the State of Goias.

In his researh at the University of Paris, France, Francisquini determined that the deposit in Vista Alegre might contain 100 tons of "Ianomamita" worth $30 million. This is equivalent to the current world's annual production of indium. [Passage omitted]

The grenite samples contain 1 percent indium, in contrast to the normal 0.26 percent ppm [parts per million] in other grenite samples analyzed. [passage omitted]

Chile

Government Not To Release Political Prisoners

PY2807001690 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0533 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Santiago, 26 Jul (EFE)—The government today stated that it will not yield to "any type of blackmail or pressure" to release the political prisoners who have been imprisoned since the time of the military regime headed by General Augusto Pinochet.

This is the answer that Acting Interior Minister Belisario Velasco gave journalists who asked him about the occupation of four prisons by relatives of prisoners who demand the prisoners' prompt release. The occupation was began 24 hours ago.

Velasco replaces Interior Minister Enrique Krauss, who will be in charge of the presidency during the absence of President Patricio Aylwin, who yesterday began a five-day trip that will take him to Brazil and Peru.

The government, Velasco added, deplores such events but does not feel any kind of pressure.

The rightist "National Renewal" party—the largest opposition party—previously issued a public statement stating that the occupation of the prisons is "an extrmely serious action" toward which the government has reacted with a passive attitude.

For its part, the Communist Party—the largest leftist opposition sector that is now being legalized—has stated that it supports the occupation of the prisons.

Yesterday afternoon, some 300 persons—including several minors—who went to visit their relatives, occupied four prisons in Santiago, Valparaiso, and Talca, as part of a peaceful movement promoted by the "coordinating board of political prisoners."

In a public communique, the board said that the occupation was prompted by the government's and congress' "lack of political will" to finally resolve the situation of almost 300 political prisoners. All of them were imprisoned during the military regime, which ended in March 1990.

A spokesman for the occupiers has said that they have enough supplies and that they intend to remain inside the prisons for an unspecified period.

Meanwhile, National Gendarmerie (prison guard) Director Cesar Pinochet Elorza has said that he will not evict the occupiers "with fire and blood," adding that he deplores and laments this type of pressure.

Defense Minister Lauds Army Following Exercise

PY2807140890 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Government authorities, senators, and deputies from the various political parties witnessed a field exercise exhibition called La Concepcion 90, which was carried out by army troops on Peldehue Hill.

On the occasion, the guests of honor were able to appreciate the professionalism of the soldiers, who used various medium and heavy weapons as well as Israeli-made tanks that were reconditioned in Chile. The exercise included an attack by special forces who demonstrated their skills during the maneuver.

At the end of the exercise, Defense Minister Patricio Rojas noted the professionalism displayed by the soldiers.

[Begin Rojas recording] We have just witnessed tactical maneuvers in which perfect planning, coordination, and performance—which make tactical maneuvers of this nature successful—were displayed. These maneuvers, in which troops and officers participated, reflect the operational efficiency of the Chilean Army and the training level of its troops. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Air Force Discontent With General Matthei Noted

PY2707135490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2009 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Santiago, 26 Jul (EFE)—There is a feeling within the Air Force that Commander General Fernando Matthei "has sold out" to the Aylwin government, the rightist magazine QUE PASA reported today. The unattributed article points out that the discontent with General Matthei stems from the fact that he does not defend his personnel, as General Augusto Pinochet does in the Army, when the Air Force is accused of past human rights violations.

The ill feeling is also caused by General Matthei's statement disavowing his responsibility for the military coup on 11 September 1973 and expressing disagreement over the bombing of La Moneda Palace at that time.

The military, adds the magazine, notes that while Pinochet holds to his promise of not allowing attacks on his men, Matthei has said that the number of human rights violations was higher during the first years of the military regime, when he was in London.

The article affirms that Matthei wants to remain in his post only until the human rights issue has been resolved, possibly no more than a year. The magazine then says that the FACh [Chilean Air Force] commander "does not intend to follow Pinochet's game" of confrontation with the government of Patricio Aylwin.

New Clandestine Graves Reported Near Tocopilla

PY3007031490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0425 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 27 Jul (EFE)—Judge Jorge Cortes Monroy from the city of Tocopilla, 1556 km north of Santiago, today began to investigate charges made about the discovery of the illegal graves of about 15 people, who were allegedly murdered for political reasons in 1973.

The charges were made to the court by relatives of the people who were executed. The relatives reported that the remains were found in La Veleidosa mine, 10 km east of Tocopilla.

Radio Mineria from Santiago has reported that the remains were found 600 feet down in a split [hendidura] of the mine.

Tocopilla Governor Norma Tejada has confirmed the accusations made by the relatives. In statements to the press, Tejada said that she hopes the remains will be discovered [as received] so "it can bring justice and reconciliation."

This discovery adds to others that have occurred in the past few months in several Chilean cities. They have helped to determine the whereabouts of almost 50 political prisoners who were killed without trial during the military regime headed by General Augusto Pinochet, who ruled Chile until 11 March 1989.

Attacks in Santiago Injure Two, Cause Damage

PY2707183090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1347 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Santiago, 27 Jul (EFE)—Police sources have reported that an alleged ultra-leftist group last night perpetrated a series of attacks in Santiago on the occasion of the Cuban revolution.

The sources added that these attacks injured two people and caused considerable damage.

The attacks occurred between 0230 GMT and 0250 GMT, causing damage to U.S. companies including Citibank, Chase Manhattan Bank, VTR [expansion unknown] Communications, and the Union Trading Company, as well as installations of the Chilean Telephone Company (CTC).

The police reported two people were injured by one of the explosions at the VTR Communications company located on Bandera Street, in downtown Santiago, only 100 meters from the La Moneda Palace.

The injured people were identified as Luis Delos Meneses and Luz Eliana Barraza Siva. They were taken to a hospital where their condition was reported as not critical.

The police sources added that Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] pamphlets were found at the sites of the numerous explosions. They added that the pamphlets referred to the attack on the Moncada Barracks that marked the start of the Cuban revolution.

Through anonymous telephone calls to the media, alleged FPMR members have claimed responsibility for the attacks.

PCCh Salutes Cuban Government on Anniversary

PY2707190890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1903 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Santiago, 26 Jul (EFE)—The Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] today saluted the people and government of Cuba on occasion of the 37th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Barracks, and demanded that President Patricio Aylwin renew diplomatic relations with Fidel Castro's regime.

In a public declaration, the PCCh condemns "permanent aggression and U.S. imperialism" against Cuba, and emphasizes that the majority of Latin American governments have broken the diplomatic blockade that Washington imposed on Havana.

The declaration states that within this context "we profoundly lament that our government remains an exception, something that openly contradicts the democratic and Latin American tradition" of Chile.

The Chilean communists state: "We demand an end to the diplomatic exclusion of Cuba which gave its support to the democratic struggle of the Chilean people against the dictatorship without any discrimination."

The PCCH terms as "unjustified" the Spanish Government reaction to the problems that have arisen in its embassy in Havana, and it rejects "any intention to create conditions for a crisis in Cuba."

Colombia

Gaviria, Parties Discuss Constituent Assembly

PA2807165390 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Talks between President-Elect Cesar Gaviria and the political parties on the constituent assembly are progressing at full speed. They have already agreed in principle on how many members should compose the constituent assembly.

The commission coordinating the referendum to establish the constituent assembly has reached a consensus, which will allow the upcoming administration to reconcile efforts by the various social and political forces that will participate in the constituent assembly. The Social Conservative Party, the National Salvation Movement, and the M-19 [19 April Movement] democratic alliance have virtually decided the number of assembly members who will be elected at the polls.

[Begin Government Minister-designate Cesar Sanchez recording] As for the number of assembly members, I believe we will try to reach an intermediate level to avoid having an assembly that looks like a seated crowd or like a minority. We will try to reach the optimum level. We will also reduce the number of constituent assembly members directly appointed by the president so that the selection of the people's representatives will be done through a direct vote by the citizens. [end recording]

We also talked to the government minister designate about the people's criticisms of the virtual appointment of liberal mayors at all governorships in the country.

[Begin Sanchez recording] What happens is that President-elect Gaviria—and I have told this to the media—has considered that governors should only be liberals. This is to avoid the problems with conservative appointments and to avoid the participation of parties other than the ruling party in departmental cabinets, with all respect, and with no offense. [end recording]

Gaviria Discloses Assembly's Agenda

PA2807195290 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1759 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] President-elect Cesar Gaviria this morning presented a document that states the 10 basic points of the agenda that the Constituent Assembly will examine. Gaviria thus paved the way for a political debate on the Assembly's organization and agenda.

President Gaviria's document seeks:

1. To strengthen and redistribute Congress' and the executive branch's legislative functions.
2. To make substantial judicial reforms, including substantial adjustments to the accusatory system, the anti-terrorist struggle, and plea bargaining.
3. To make in-depth public administration adjustments to increase the executive branch's efficiency.
4. To broaden the human rights register and strengthen the Attorney General's office.
5. To abolish Article 120 of the national constitution, finance political parties, and design an opposition statute.
6. To strengthen the administrative decentralization process and redesign the departmental and municipal governments.
7. To broaden the community's participation in the country's development.
8. To reform the state of siege to strengthen congress' political control over government decisions.
9. To consider substantial budget planning reforms in the economic field.
10. To revise fiscal control mechanisms through the technicalization of the general comptrollership.

President-elect Gaviria will continue making the necessary political contacts to discuss the Constituent Assembly's agenda, which seems to be definitely making headway.

Extraditables Declare Unilateral Truce

PA2807005590 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0002 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Report by Adriana Rosas]

[Text] Attention: The group The Extraditables has suddenly, and for no apparent reason—at least not publicly known—declared a unilateral and indefinite truce in the war against the government and the Colombian state. No one knows if this is an offer for the next government, but the announcement of a unilateral truce by The Extraditables has occurred barely 11 days before the presidential turnover.

The Extraditables say: Almost all the Colombian people want peace—the self-defense groups, the emerald miners, and The Extraditables. Consequently, we decree an indefinite unilateral truce, and we suspend the attacks on the police, dynamite actions in all the Colombian cities, and the executions of politicians, journalists, judges, officials, etc.

The communique, which was released this afternoon, accused the current president of letting what they call the government military junta manipulate him. According to them, the so-called government military junta issued measures that were later abolished, including the creation of military leaderships and the registration of addresses.

The Extraditables say that policemen were suspiciously transferred en masse from Valle Department to Antioquia Department during this administration. It adds that many of the people included in the reward notices have never had problems with the law, and there are not even arrest warrants in their names. They are only important, the communique says, to certain citizens in Valle del Cauca—clearly referring to the Cali Cartel.

The Extraditables state further: We hope that the judges who investigate the massacres of Bogota, Gomez Plata, Envigado, and the low-income neighborhoods will investigate the DIJIN [Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigations] members assigned to the capital of Antioquia Department and question Mr. Oscar Pelaez, who is currently chief of police investigations, but who will soon be given a diplomatic post and be sent abroad.

Regardless of The Extraditables' reasons for announcing that they will suspend their continuous crimes, this will result in a pause, undoubtedly waiting for the decisions that the next government will adopt about narcoterrorism matters.

Acting President Rejects Extraditables' Truce

PA2807195490 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1802 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Bogota, 28 Jul (DPA)—Acting President Horacio Serpa Uribe today described as "repugnant" the truce announced by that country's drug trafficking mafia, which cited the end of President Virgilio Barco's mandate as its reason in a clandestine message that was revealed yesterday. Serpa Uribe said the state is not going to stand idly by just because a group of criminals announces that it will not commit terrorist attacks against policemen, government officials, reporters, and judges.

The communique by the "Extraditables," the mafia's armed wing, was sent to different news media to announce a "unilateral and indefinite truce," because of the change of government. On 7 August, Barco Vargas will hand the presidency over to Cesar Gaviria Trujillo. In addition, the criminal group disclosed that it has killed 215 policemen and wounded 296 and blown up 30 police precincts in violent actions carried out this year in Medellin.

Serpa Uribe, who is in charge of the presidency during Barco Varga's brief visit to Peru to attend the inauguration of President Alberto Fujimori, added that the authorities will continue fighting all outlawed armed organizations. The "Extraditables" declared the government had defeated them in a communique issued in January, but resumed their terrorist attacks because they felt the authorities had "kidnapped, tortured, and murdered," several of their accomplices. Barco Vargas declared "war" on the drug trafficking mafia 11 months ago after assassins, who were paid by the Medellin Cartel, killed a judge, a police colonel, and senator and presidential hopeful Luis Carlos Galan.

Socioeconomic Plan Implemented To Stop Violence

PA2807231390 Paris AFP in Spanish 0230 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 27 Jul (AFP)—As a new strategy in the attempt to stop the violence that is the scourge of this northwestern city in Colombia, the stronghold of the Medellin Cartel, the government implemented today an emergency program oriented towards socioeconomic rehabilitation.

The program, which will cost 10 billion pesos (approximately $20 million), is designed to offer better living conditions to at least 1 million persons who live in poverty-stricken communities, which are breeding places for young hired killers at the disposal of the drug traffickers.

Medellin Mayor Omar Florez has insisted that violence cannot be eliminated merely through public order measures, because it has deeper roots. He said that it must be fought with social rehabilitation programs.

President Virgilio Barco, announcing the implementation of the program, said: "The violence which affects Medellin is due to the ominous drug trafficking activity," and he admitted that the illegal business had caused "profound social and economic imbalances."

Medellin, where top Colombian drug "capo" Pablo Escobar allegedly hides, is the most violent city in the country. According to the Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigation (DIJIN) statistics, 2,400 crimes have occurred there since the beginning of the year.

So far this year, 215 policemen have been killed by assassins hired by the mafia, who allegedly pay $4,400 for each crime.

These hired assassins come from the poverty-stricken neighborhoods located on the mountain sides surrounding the city, which drug terrorists' attacks have battered even more since the government declared war on the drug traffickers in August 1989.

The local authorities consider the implementation of the socioeconomic program as a top priority.

Mayor Florez said: "The program has been set up to do away with the precarious conditions under which these communities live."

New sources of employment will be created and basic services will be supplied to these neighborhoods through the program.

Minister Downplays Developed Nations' Support

PA2807143090 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1218 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] The Defense Ministry has described the support offered by the industrialized nations for the struggle against drug trafficking as simple rhetoric. The ministry says that the United States' organized crime seems to be more powerful than Colombia's.

The remarks were made by Colombian Defense Minister General Oscar Botero Restrepo in his annual report. He pointed out that although the United States is the country that has contributed most to the struggle against drug trafficking, it has not been able to lower its own levels of drug consumption.

The report adds that the U.S. Government has not striven to discover and capture the top money-laundering lords who, apparently, are more powerful than the Colombian drug traffickers. Gen. Botero Restrepo also acknowledged that money from organized crime has infiltrated some levels of the military forces and national police, but he said that such cases are isolated.

Government, EPL Sign Peace Agreement

PA2807141390 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1214 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] The national government and the People's Liberation Army, EPL, have taken the first step toward integrating the guerrilla group to civilian life by signing an agreement that establishes the mechanisms for the EPL's demobilization and disarmament.

The meeting between the executive branch and representatives from the insurgent movement in Pueblo Nuevo, municipal jurisdiction of Necocli, in the Uraba Antioqueno region, was attended by government Minister Horacio Serpa Uribe, Deputy Government Minister Jose Noe Rios Munoz, and Presidential Peace Adviser Rafael Pardo Rueda. Also present were the EPL's top commanders, including Bernardo Gutierrez, and Apartado Bishop Monseignor Isaias Duarte Cansino, who signed the agreement. The agreement also includes the dialogue's agenda and mechanisms for reincorporation.

The document states the EPL's criteria concerning the national constituent assembly issue, the guerrillas's legal situation, and the creation of development programs for the depressed areas where the subversive group operates.

The EPL presented to Government Minister Serpa a counterproposal on the formation and development of the national constituent assembly. Bernardo Gutierrez, one of the EPL's general staff commanders, said that the proposal is not intended as a unilateral imposition but as an important aspect that could strengthen the current peace process. The EPL's proposal concerning the national constituent assembly primarily contains the following aspects:

1. The creation of a preconstituent commission that will bring together Colombia's social and political movements as well its insurgent movement.
2. The national constituent assembly must be autonomous and there must be no conditions on the topics it discusses, so that it can establish the foundations for a broad democratic opening and a new social pact.
3. The government must provide electoral financing for the assembly's formation and true political guarantees for its members.
4. There must be no pre-conditions whatsoever for the elegibility of members of the constituent assembly; only that they be over age 18 and Colombians by birth.
5. Within the constituent assembly, every sector must be allowed to state its proposals. Therefore, the assembly must be formed by at least 200 members.

Government Minister Serpa emphasized that the peace process that is under way with the EPL should not be conditioned to the organization of the national constituent assembly.

Following a meeting at which a joint declaration was signed with the EPL's general staff with a view to continuing the detente process, Serpa said that undoubtedly the national constituent assembly will contribute to

creating a climate of peace and democratic conditions, but the assembly should not be the leading condition for the fulfillment of the current peace process.

Serpa said he hopes to see EPL delegates when the constituent assembly is formed, and other representatives from insurgent sectors which are currently showing with deeds their resolve to achieve peace.

President-elect Cesar Gaviria Trujillo, who has expressed his full support and has promised to continue the peace process during his term, has been informed of this entire process, Serpa added.

Both Sides Pleased With Agreement

PA2807165990 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1257 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Government Minister Horacio Serpa Uribe says that the ongoing peace process with the People's Liberation Army [EPL] cannot be circumscribed to the national constituent assembly's organization.

After a meeting at which the government signed a joint communique with the EPL's general staff with a view to continuing the detente process, Serpa Uribe said that the national constituent assembly will undoubtedly contribute to creating a climate of peace and democratic conditions, but it should not be a prime condition for the current peace process' concretion.

[Begin Serpa Uribe recording] I would like to convey to you the Barco government's satisfaction with this important event today in Pueblo Nuevo. The government believes that this agreement is a very important contribution to the Colombian people's efforts in favor of coexistence. Therefore, I must acknowledge the Colombian people's current and past efforts to find instances of understanding, conciliation, and peace.

I must underscore the positive activities which, on the government's behalf, have been carried out by a few very important administration officials. I must cite the dilligence of Rafael Pardo Rueda and the board of advisers, and the very important activities of Deputy Government Minister Jose Noe Rios.

I will be very pleased to answer any questions you may have, but first I must underscore that today has been an especially pleasant day because of the generous manner in which area residents have greeted us and because of the positive and patriotic manner in which the dialogue with the EPL spokesmen and top commanders has been carried out. [end recording]

[Begin Bernardo Gutierrez recording] I wish to express, on behalf of the EPL's National Directorate, its central command, and negotiations commission, that we are pleased with the document that has just been signed, which constitutes an important step—not for the government and EPL—but for Colombia. We believe that this is a contribution that will provide global solutions to the violence problem.

For our part, we will devote our efforts to erradicate all of the factors of violence in the country so that we can gradually establish the foundations of lasting and stable peace. [end recording]

Revolutionary Groups Wage 'War' in Putumayo

PA2707190890 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1733 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Report by Victor Javier Solano from Puerto Asis]

[Text] On arriving in Puerto Asis, one's first impression of this municipality of 25,000 inhabitants is that it is a commercially active region that is apparently very peaceful. However, within a few minutes one realizes that in the town, and more intensively in the countryside, a war is being waged that in just one month has left over 50 dead and 30 missing.

In this part of the Putumayo region, drug trafficker Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, alias "El Mejicano," owned extensive estates. Over the past two years, peasants in the region replaced their farming and cattle raising activities with the growing of coca, since it paid well, and there were no transportation expenses.

"El Mejicano" dominated the area to such an extent that his paramilitary groups ousted the 8th Front of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia]. With the drug trafficker's death, the paramilitary forces were weakened, and the FARC returned in force to reconquer the territory. Not just the 8th Front, but also the 14th, 15th, and 32d Front, what the FARC calls the Southern Bloc, arrived to wipe out what they consider to be the paramilitary bases at the service of the drug traffic.

[Begin unidentified resident recording] On 6 July, at approximately 0400, an armed group arrived. They were guerrillas of the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board. They fired shots at the houses in which we were sleeping. They killed husbands and children and set fire to the houses. They threw bombs at the boats which some people were using to escape. Many people were lost in the river and cannot be found. [end recording]

Municipal authorities maintain that in addition to being negligent, the central government has tied their hands, because according to the peasants, the EPL [Popular Liberation Army] is also participating in these massacres.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Why haven't the Army or the police taken action in this area?

[Puerto Asis Mayor Jose Gavira] Well, since there are negotiations underway between the EPL and high levels of the government, local units are waiting for orders from the military high command and the government before taking action. [end recording]

Outbreaks of violence have also increased in the town. On 15 July, two people were killed when a 12-kg bomb

exploded in the Chirimaco Hotel. Another bomb was defused in the top floor of the building. Two days earlier, another bomb exploded on a stretch of the Puerto Asis-Santa Ana Highway, a few meters from the Drug Police headquarters. A councilman, a city hall employee, and a businessman were also killed over the past few days. The wave of violence has extended to the El Guayabal estate. Last Saturday, a FARC column killed three people and partially destroyed their home. When we arrived at the estate, it was abandoned. It was obvious that the guerrillas wanted to unmask the owners. We found articles used for the processing of cocaine, as well as hiding places, presumably used to hide drugs or weapons. When we were about to return to Puerto Asis, we were stopped by armed men who identified themselves as members of the FARC. A few meters away, they had set up a roadblock. Although they refused to talk on camera, they confirmed that they were waging a total war against the paramilitary groups, and that the people killed in the past few days were not peasants, but hired killers and paramilitary units from outside the region.

According to the FARC guerrillas, the EPL is not involved in any actions in the area. Today, Puerto Asis is not the only resting place of the war victims. The Putumayo River carried away a great many of them, and for the moment, the war seems to be unstoppable.

Group Claims Responsibility for Murder of Salazar

PA2807010690 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0006 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] The subversive Jorge Eliezer Gaitan Group claimed responsibility today for the assassination of Social Conservative Party Representative Jaime Salazar Robledo. The politician was murdered last night in his hometown of Pereira.

The funeral will be held tomorrow in the presence of former President Misael Pastrana and other Social Conservative Party leaders.

Making an anonymous phone call and delivering a communique to the local Caracol radio station, the group called for the immediate convocation of a constituent assembly and condemned to death the oligarchy and the Colombian political class.

However, there are many versions of the crime in Pereira. According to one of these versions, there is an alleged plan of "The Extraditables" to destabilize President-elect Cesar Gaviria's region just days before he is sworn in. There are also those who believe it was an act of personal vengeance against the congressman. The truth is that the authorities as well as local citizens are very confused regarding the real motives of the crime.

[Begin Pereira City Mayor Cesar Castillo recording] Last night at the security council we were informed about a great number of versions, but none of them could be confirmed. None of them could lead us to find a quick solution to this horrible crime committed against Representative Jaime Salazar Robledo. [end recording]

Salazar had been involved in politics for 40 years in Risaralda Department and he was the head of the conservative Social Change Movement, which follows the guidelines of former President Misael Pastrana Borrero. He had been a deputy at the Caldas Assembly and a Pereira councilman on several occasions. He had held a seat at the Congress since 1968. His funeral will take place tomorrow under the tightest security measures.

Army Intelligence Notes Possible ELN Attack

PA2807150390 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1222 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Army Commander General Manuel Alberto Murillo Gonzalez toured the Venezuelan border and the oil complex in Arauca to establish special security measures due to a possible dynamite attack by the ELN [Army of National Liberation] in that area on 7 August.

Gen. Murillo Gonzalez decided on an early tour of inspection at the Cano-Limon oil enclave after receiving intelligence information to the effect that the ELN would take advantage of 20 heads of state's presence at the presidential inauguration in Bogota to attack the facilities.

FARC Group Occupies Town; Army Sends Troops

PA2907153390 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Troops from the Army's 6th Brigade have been deployed to the rural area of Chamesa Municipality in Casanare intendancy to intensify the search for a FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] column which had occupied the town in a casualty-free operation.

According to the authorities, approximately 40 insurgents arrived in Chamesa just before 1000 on 26 July and remained there, harassing residents until 1500.

Reports indicate that Chamesa residents are frightened and that the Army troops will carry out control operations in the area.

Three Municipalities Returned to Civilian Rule

PA2707195190 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] President Virgilio Barco Vargas, who arrived in Medellin this morning with several assistants, announced that last April's decision to change the municipalities of Envigado, Bello, and La Estrella into military operating areas was lifted today. He made a surprise announcement on the decision to repeal the decrees that had created the military commands. On 10 April public order at Envigado was placed in the hands of the 4th Infantry Brigade's (Colonel Miguel Levancure). One month later, the municipalities of Bello and La Estrella were also placed under the 4th Infantry

Brigade, causing the mayors to lose their police powers. The military commands carried out search and control missions against groups of paid assassins and drug traffickers in those villages and placed more than 100 people before the judges. However, the military commands were also harshly criticized because the crime rate—especially around Envigado—continued to rise. Many people today ask what has changed in these villages that allows for the return to regular civilian control.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Did the military commands fail?

[Barco] No, the military have work in their own fields. I believe they have contributed a lot to the country. [end recording]

The president took the opportunity to announce his support for a 10-billion peso emergency social plan for Medellin.

Heavy Security Planned for Inaugural Ceremony

PA2907150090 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Five heads of state have confirmed their attendance at President Cesar Gaviria's inaugural ceremony. Heavy military and police protection has been planned to guarantee their security.

Approximately 20,000 soldiers will be in charge of protecting the presidents who will be attending President Gaviria's inauguration.

The Armed Forces Joint Operations Command, COC, will be declared on red alert. The military personnel at the various garrisons and battalions operating in Bogota will be on a first degree alert and confined to their quarters. The 13th Brigade's artillery, cavalry, engineering, and communications schools, as well as military police battalions, will participate in the security plan prepared for 7 August.

The operation will also include the 8,000 agents of the Metropolitan Police, and the members of the DAS [Administrative Department of Security], the National F-2, and Bogota's F-2.

Helicopter gunships and Cascavel and Urutu armoured vehicles will be placed in strategic positions. Colombian Air Force A7 planes will escort the planes transporting foreign delegations.

Students of the Jose Maria Cordoba Military Cadets School, of the General Santander School, of the Muna Police Subofficers School, and the Carabineros School will reinforce the security forces for the 7 August inaugural ceremony.

Ecuador

AVC Executive Command Denies Internal Division

PA2907043590 Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 17 Jul 90 p 3-A

[Text] The Executive Command of the Alfaro Lives, Dammit [AVC] group has flatly denied that there is division inside the movement, as some dissident members have stated.

Pedro Moncada, AVC official spokesman, said that the calumnies of those who have chosen to separate from the Alfaro Lives movement have no basis or support.

According to Moncada, they (the dissidents) will have to answer to the country for their actions. The AVC says that the negative deeds of those who took antihistoric postures have ended, especially now, when they must unite forces against the right wing and the social movement demands clear and positive direction.

He said that within the AVC there is complete unity between the leaders and the bases.

The AVC leader said that his organization agrees with the proposals made by some political parties about Congress granting amnesty to all political prisoners as a contribution to the country's peace process. Moncada said it is time to stop the hatred, staunch the wounds, and look forward.

According to Moncada, one must not let political arguments or the social conflict become acute enough to close all channels of dialogue. Therefore, he proposed that real and concrete goals be defined.

The AVC has promised to demand from Congress the necessary work so that the goals that emerge from the dialogue be made concrete in laws and budgets.

Bomb Damages Ibarra Municipal Building

PA2807161490 Paris AFP in Spanish 0002 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Quito, 27 Jul (AFP)—A medium-sized bomb exploded in the early morning of Friday, 27 July in Ibarra, 75 km north of Quito, damaging the doors of the Ibarra Municipal Byilding. This is the fourth bomb attack to take place in Ecuador since 24 July, the police have confirmed.

There have been two attacks in Quito and one on 26 July in Ambato, 120 km south of Quito. All of the attacks took place in the early morning hours, did not cause any casualties, but resulted in heavy damage. No one has claimed credit for the attacks.

The first three attacks were interpreted as protests against the monthly hike in the price of fuels and the recent increases in the transportation rates. The most

recent attack in Ibarra damaged the doors and facade of the municipal building of this city, which is the capital of Imbabura Province.

There have also been about a dozen bomb threats through phone calls. Public and private offices in Quito have been evacuated several times since the violence has increased.

The police have not issued any reports on the attacks. The Alfaro Lives, Dammit (AVC) subversive group continues to voice its interest in becoming a political party and in turning its weapons over to a delegation of Socialist International and of the Andean Parliament.

AVC has minimized the separation of a faction opposed to surrendering arms and its leaders aligning themselves with the Democratic Left (ID) following the March 1989 peace agreement.

Paraguay

Generals Carpinelli, Gonzalez Duarte Relieved

PY2707133890 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 27 Jul 90 p 12

[Text] On orders of General Andres Rodriguez, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, Division General Otello Carpinelli Yegros, the commander of the 3d Army Corps, and Brigade General Dario Gonzalez Duarte, the commander of the 6th Infantry Division, both headquartered in Mariscal Estigarribia in the Paraguayan Chaco Region, have been relieved from their posts.

By the same order, dated 25 July, Brigade General Solano I. Gamarra, the commander of the 5th Infantry Division headquartered in Pablo Lagerenza, Chaco, has been designated acting commander of the 3d Army Corps with no detriment to his current functions, while Colonel Evelio Fabio Benitez Santacruz, the commander of the "Mariscal Francisco Solano Lopez" 16th Infantry Division, headquartered in Mariscal Estigarribia, has been designated acting commander of the 6th Infantry Division with no detriment to his current functions.

Generals Otello Carpinelli and Gonzalez Duarte are now at the disposal of the commander in chief of the Armed Forces for their presumed responsibility for the incident involving a Bolivian Cessna plane that on the night of Sunday 27 May, crashed two kilometers from the northern end of the military airport, some 15 kilometers from "Gabino Mendoza," very near the Paraguayan-Bolivian border.

The accident caused the death of three people, including the pilot, Lieutenant Claudio Silvera, an officer of the Parque Cue garrison, which is subordinate to the 6th Infantry Division.

Although it was not confirmed yesterday by military sources, the investigations have found these generals responsible for the accident of the plane that was presumably transporting a cargo of crocodile hides from the Izozog swamp land of Bolivia. It was reported, however, that the change of command ceremony will be held within the next few days under the direction of Division General Eumelio Bernal Gimenez, chief of the Armed Forces Staff.

Involvement in Drugs Denied

PY2807151290 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 28 Jul 90 p 9

[Report on news conference held by President Andres Rodriguez with unidentified reporters on 27 July; place not given]

[Text] The president of the Republic, General Andres Rodriguez, has denied reports that Generals Otello Carpinelli and Dario Gonzalez Duarte—who were relieved of their commands—are involved in drug trafficking.

Rodriguez added that Carpinelli, 3d Corps commander, and Gonzalez, 6th Infantry Division commander, were relieved from their posts to undergo an investigation into the case of a Bolivian aircraft that crashed in the Chaco region in late May. A military court will decide their future. Yesterday Rodriguez discussed the subject with reporters.

[Reporter] It has been reported that Generals Otello Carpinelli and Dario Gonzalez Duarte were removed from their posts. What can you tell us about this?

[Rodriguez] They were not removed; they were just relieved from their posts. That report is true. They are now at the disposal of the commander in chief to undergo an investigation into the death of an officer in a plane crash that occurred in a Chaco post.

[Reporter] There is speculation that the plane was carrying drugs.

[Rodriguez] There is all kind of speculation. You, better than I, know that there is speculation on every subject and at every level. I can confirm what I said earlier. It is a lie that there were drugs on the plane; there may have been something else, but not drugs.

[Reporter] It has been reported that other officers may be involved in the case.

[Rodriguez] Involved in what? In a plane crash? No one has to be involved for a plane to land somewhere.

[Reporter] It has been reported that the plane was carrying hide...

[Rodriguez] I was getting there. An investigation will be conducted to find out what the plane was really doing in Paraguayan airspace—whether, shall we say, it was a regular flight, or it crashed in the area in an attempt to make an emergency landing.

[Reporter] Would these officers be asked to retire?

[Rodriguez] Undoubtedly, but we will first investigate whether they are guilty in any way. The military court will decide this based on the results of the investigation.

[Reporter] Have their replacements been named?

[Rodriguez] No. The senior officer will be in charge of each unit in the absence of the commanding officers who, if the investigations show they are not guilty, may be reinstated. This is a matter that will be decided by their commander in chief.

[Reporter] What if they are guilty?

[Rodriguez] The investigation is designed to find out why that officer was on board the plane.

[Reporter] Will their case be heard at a military court?

[Rodriguez] Yes. We have the Military Supreme Court, which will decide whether these officers are guilty or not.

Uruguayan Vice President Makes Brief Stopover

PY2707212090 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 27 Jul 90 p 6

[Excerpt] Uruguayan Vice President Dr. Gonzalo Aguirre Ramirez made brief remarks to the press yesterday at the "Silvio Pettirossi" international airport during a technical stopover en route to Lima, Peru. He emphasized the excellent relations between his country and Paraguay.

Dr. Aguirre Ramirez stayed in our capital for more than three hours. During his stay, he was hosted by Paraguayan Foreign Minister Dr. Alexis Frutos Vaesken and other Paraguayan Government officials, but without the protocol usually followed during the visits of foreign officials. [passage omitted]

South American Drug Kingpin Arrested in Asuncion

PY2707213490 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 27 Jul 90 p 24

[Text] The head of cocaine distributors in South America has been arrested by the antidrug police in Asuncion and is being intensely questioned at the National Narcotics Directorate (Dinar). The man arrested is considered a drug trafficking "big fish," who leads a a ring of "mules" in this part of the continent with contacts in Europe and the United States. He is Nestor Anibal Cabeza, Argentine, 39, who was arrested at the Silvio Pettirossi Airport as he was about to board a plane to Buenos Aires, whence he commands his drug distribution operations. Accoding to the Dinar spokesman, Cabezas had a forged passport No. 2293443, which came to the attention of the airport Security Police who proceeded to arrest him.

Cabeza confessed at the Dinar office that he receives high-quality cocaine from Santa Cruz, Bolivia, sent via various routes to Buenos Aires and Asuncion. From Asuncion, he used to airmail small 400 grams packages of cocaine to Madrid, Spain, which is the center of distribution in Europe. The drug packages are taken from Madrid to Malaga, Barcelona, Brussels, Lisbon, Switzerland, and even the United States.

Cabeza said: "I receive the drug and recruit the "mules" to carry the drug from Asuncion to Europe. The "mule" is paid $5,000 for each trip and is given a roundtrip airline ticket."

Also, a few days ago two "mules" were caught at the Silvio Pettirossi Airport, and nearly 2 kilograms of cocaine were seized. Cristian Mauricio Leppel Bravo, Chilean of legal age [older than 21], and Osvaldo Eliodoro Maciel, Argentine, 31, were arrested at the Silvio Pettirossi Airport. They were carrying cocaine that had been delivered to them in a downtown hotel by a distributor in Asuncion. Weeks ago, six other foreigners carrying cocaine brought from Bolivia were arrested. All these "mules" were recruited by Nestor Anibal Cabeza.

Other "big fish" in the drug trafficking business are expected to be snared by police nets at any time.

Drug Police Find 'Important Arms Cache'

PY2707220490 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 26 Jul 90 p 50

[Text] National Narcotics Directorate (Dinar) personnel, who have been searching for drugs at the Itaipu Binational Enterprise, found an important arms cache. The weapons turned out to have been stolen between February and March of this year. Other valuable objects were also found.

According to information provided by the Press Office of the Alto Parana Government Delegation, the weapons were stolen from the tree nursery of the Itaipu Binational Enterprise. After being recovered, they were placed in court custody.

According to a report, these weapons were found: 17 .357 Magnum Taurus revolvers, a semiautomatic Winchester rifle, 10 boxes of .38-caliber bullets, two boxes of 12-gauge shotgun shells, another 40 boxes of .38-caliber bullets, two more Winchester rifles, a 12-gauge double-barreled shotgun, and a 12-gauge single-barreled shotgun. The report also mentions that a 29-inch color television set, a typewriter, two .22-caliber Taurus revolvers, and a .22-caliber Rossi revolver were found.

The Government Delegation provided a list of people who are arrested in connection with the theft: Silvio Dario Acuna Benitez, Paraguayan, single, 24, merchant, resident of Puerto Presidente Franco; Gerardo Merced Ibarrola Arce; Cesar Augusto Sanchez Cabrera, former chief of personnel at the Itaipu Binational tree nursery, Paraguayan, separated, 36, employed, resident of Itaipu area 3.

The arms and objects recovered were turned over to the Itaipu Binational Enterprise, and the thieves are under arrest at the Government Delegation and at the disposition of the court.

It is noteworthy that it was not publicly reported when the arms were stolen from Itaipu Binational premises and that, after such a long time, Dinar personnel found them by chance, while searching for drugs.

Peru

Coca Eradication Being Achieved With 'Sacrifice'

PY2707125690 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 25 Jul 90 p 6

[Excerpts] Santa Lucia, Uchiza, 24 Jul—Despite the intense struggle to stop an increase in the coca plantations in this region, the number of hectares under production has grown and now stands at 200,000 hectares.

This was revealed by Eloy Cabrera, executive director of the Control and Reduction of Coca Cultivation in Alto Huallaga Project (CORAH), who added that despite the difficulties and the danger 30,000 hectares of coca plants have been eradicated since 1983.

The project uses various methods to eradicate the coca. They are all considered to be dangerous because of the ever-present treacherous attacks by narcoterrorists.

The exhausting daily work under an inclement sun or torrential rain is carried out in places that have previously been located by the antidrug police. [passage omitted]

In a brief chat with journalists, the CORAH executive director maintained that total eradication will only be possible in our country with investments for the development of Alto Huallaga region.

"With investment, the eradication would take between eight and 10 years because we must first develop the agricultural and tourism projects," he added.

He stated that if vegetables and flowers were to be planted the eradication of the coca plant would occur voluntarily within those eight to 10 years.

For the journalists who observed the task that is being carried out by members of the CORAH project and by the antidrug police, the objective is being achieved, but with a lot of sacrifice and danger to their lives.

Cuban Assembly President on Socialism

PA3007042890 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0151 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Interview with Juan Escalona Reguera, president of the Cuban National Assembly of the People's Government, by Fernando Vasquez in Lima—live]

[Text] [Vasquez] Good evening, Mr. Escalona.

[Escalona] Good evening, Fernando.

[Vasquez] A Cuban parliament? The assumption is that since Cuba does not have a representative democracy as it is known at least in Peru, it would not have an assembly. What sort of work do you do in this assembly?

[Escalona] I will begin by telling you that for the past five months I have been president of the National Assembly of the People's Government. We prepare the country's entire legislative program, we make our republic's laws, and the assembly's permanent commissions control the work of the state's central administration organizations.

[Vasquez] Evidently, however, you are not all elected by the people.

[Escalona] We are elected. In Cuba the people directly elect 14,427 delegates to the municipal assemblies.

[Vasquez] In other words, the only one you have not elected in Cuba over the past 30 years is the president.

[Escalona] No, we elected the president. We do so every five years.

[Vasquez] But Fidel Castro seized power 30 years ago, correct?

[Escalona] Fidel Castro has, in fact, been our country's leader for the past 30 years. I would say that luckily he has been our country's leader for the past 30 years, because his sagaciousness and experience have helped us a great deal.

[Vasquez] Nevertheless, Mr. Escalona, everything seems to indicate that Fidel Castro is experiencing very difficult times. On 26 July, during events marking the Cuban anniversary, he even said that he had authorized the departure of all discontented Cubans as long as the United States and Europe provide them with the proper visas. This has been qualified by international experts as a desire to open an escape valve for discontent inside Cuba. Why do you believe that Castro now wants to get rid of those who want to leave the island?

[Escalona] I believe that you are lacking in background formation. This is not Castro's position now; it has always been his position. In Cuba we have always said that an in-depth revolutionary process was voluntarily decided by the Cubans. The people who are in Cuba are the ones who want to create a revolution. Those who do not want to create a revolution have left Cuba. In other words, Fidel Castro's position is not new.

[Vasquez] But many people have not been able to leave Cuba. Right now there are 18 Cuban nationals at the Spanish Embassy, and this has created another serious problem for Fidel Castro because he has argued with Spain, which was among the few European countries that maintained good relations with Cuba.

[Escalona] Pardon me, Fernando. He has not argued with Spain. Just yesterday, when Castro went to the Peruvian Embassy in Havana to participate in the celebration of Peru's Independence Day, he explained that he had not intended to offend anyone and that he had not done so. He explained the situation in Cuba. What happened was an established plan.

[Vasquez] By whom?

[Escalona] By the U.S. Interests Section and other embassies.

[Vasquez] That argument has been repeated tirelessly for the past 30 years in Cuba.

[Escalona] It began at the Czechoslovak Embassy, when a group of people entered the embassy and the Czechoslovak charge d'affaires invited them to remain there. He called Prague, requested authorization, etc. This group was informed of what has always been a Cuban revolutionary principle: You can leave Cuba legally. Furthermore, Cuba signed an immigration agreement with the United States, whereby 20,000 Cubans would be allowed to leave Cuba yearly, particularly a large group of former convicts charged with counterrevolutionary activities. This agreement was never fulfilled.

[Vasquez] Pardon me. Does the fact that there are 18 Cubans at the Spanish Embassy give any Cuban leader the right to say that the Spanish foreign minister is a vassal, an imperialist in disguise?

[Escalona] That is not exactly what we said. We said that he had behaved like some sort of old captain general. He went to Brussels and there began dictating guidelines as to what the Cubans should do and how we should resolve our problems. However, our problems are ours, not the Spanish foreign minister's.

[Vasquez] However, it is not diplomatic, to say the least, or elegent at most, to treat an international figure that way.

[Escalona] I believe that it is less than elegant for an international figure to intervene in Cuba's internal affairs, and to attempt to establish guidelines for us. This country has never accepted foreign opinions.

[Vasquez] Do you not regret this very shameful incident, which has been published all over the world?

[Escalona] I regret it because we maintain close, very brotherly relations with Spain. We always have. Even during the era of Generalissimo Franco we maintained relations with Spain and have always maintained them.

[Vasquez] How will this incident end? How do you believe it will all end?

[Escalona] We are speaking with the Spanish Government.

[Vasquez] Will the 18 people leave the Spanish Embassy?

[Escalona] Probably. If they accept the conditions we establish.

[Vasquez] What conditions?

[Escalona] To leave the embassy. If the Spaniards want to, they can give them visas and they can leave the country peacefully.

[Vasquez] Mr. Escalona, there must be a reason why those 18 Cubans are afraid to leave the embassy. This means that the situation is not as idyllic as you portray it. Is this not so?

[Escalona] Perhaps I see it this way because I love Cuba in an idyllic manner. However, 14 people left the Czechoslovak Embassy, four left the Italian Embassy, three left the Swiss Embassy, and none of them is under arrest. Now that they have left the embassies and respected the Cuban Government's decision, we are willing to allow them to leave if any country gives them visas.

[Vasquez] Do you not believe that the time has come for some type of change in Cuba after so much time? After all, it seems as if it is the only orthodox Marxist regime, Stalinist in some cases, that is left.

[Escalona] We have never been Stalinists. We have always been Marxists.

[Vasquez] And you always will be?

[Escalona] We will continue being Marxists.

[Vasquez] However, Marxism is changing. The Berlin Wall has fallen, Czechoslovakia is no longer Communist, Poland is not Communist, Hungary is not Communist, within a short time the USSR will not be Communist.

[Escalona] Of course, Fernando, I do not believe what you have said. I believe that the USSR will continue being Communist.

[Vasquez] For the time being the Communist Party no longer monopolizes power. A great step forward.

[Escalona] Agreed.

[Vasquez] And in Cuba the party continues to monopolize power...

[Escalona, interrupting] In Cuba we will continue with the single-party system.

[Vasquez] How can you guarantee this?

[Escalona] We can guarantee it because we just held the party's fourth congress, during which we discussed a process of perfecting our party, its internal functions, and our government system. We are not only discussing these measures with party members, but with all of the Cuban people.

[Vasquez] Mr. Escalona, you say that the situations are different. It is not a matter of comparing, but Ceaucescu used to say the same thing in Rumania 10 days before he

was brutally deposed and murdered. He believed that he was ruling with a firm hand and that he was in full control.

[Escalona] We do not purport to believe that we rule with a firm hand. We govern with our people. There were 18 Cubans at the Spanish Embassy, but two days ago 700,000 Cubans went to Revolution Square to hear Fidel Castro's 26 July speech.

[Vasquez] However, that is not a symptom of full adherence.

[Escalona] Why not?

[Vasquez] Because everyone who goes to a meeting is not necessarily willing to accept everything that the regime says...

[Escalona, interrupting] Why, then, does he go to the meeting?

[Vasquez] He goes to the meeting because here, for example, some people go to meetings because they are taken, because they are forced to. In a regime like Cuba's I would suspect that there could be some sort of reprisal for those who fail to attend those meetings.

[Escalona] You have a right to suspect. I who live in Cuba can tell you that no one is forced to go to an event of that nature.

[Vasquez] Castro's regime is firmly in power? It is not in danger?

[Escalona] It is as it was 30 years ago. It has not changed.

[Vasquez] Very well, Mr. Escalona. One final issue. Cuba usually sends delegations to all of the western, democratic presidential inaugurations. Fidel Castro attends some of them. You are heading the Cuban delegation on this occasion. Welcome to Peru.

[Escalona] Thank you very much.

[Vasquez] When will delegations from all over the world be able to attend a democratic change of government in Cuba?

[Escalona] Those of us who live in Cuba are happy with our democracy.

[Vasquez] We felt happy with all of the governments we had but there are changes [words indistinct].

[Escalona] And we are also going to establish a democratic opening, which has been discussed with our people, approved by our people, and is advantageous to our people's interests because we are not in any condition to do what others want. We do what our people want and need.

[Vasquez] Does it not seem contradictory to attend a presidential inauguration in another country and to not have that civic festivity in your own country?

[Escalona] Pardon me, we hold elections in Cuba every two and one-half years, and I reiterate that we elect 14,400 delegates, and these delegates constitute our assembly at the municipality, provincial, and national levels. Our National Assembly is formed by delegates who were elected by the people, in elections in which 97 percent of the people vote. It is not like these democracies that we visit, many of which we respect, in which 50 percent of the people vote and a president is elected with 30 percent of the vote.

[Vasquez] The vote is free.

[Escalona] Of course, and in Cuba also. It is free and secret. You should not have the slightest doubt of that. It seems to me, Fernando, that you should visit Havana, visit Cuba, and see what we do there.

[Vasquez] Well, it would be a matter of making a journalistic visit.

[Escalona] Of course.

[Vasquez] Not an official visit during which officials usually take their visitors to see what they want them to see.

[Escalona] I can see that you have never been in Cuba.

[Vasquez] I never have.

[Escalona] Visitors do whatever they want to do there. No one tells them who to talk with, where to go, or what to do. They make their plans and fulfill them.

[Vasquez] Several Peruvian reporters have visited Cuba, they have brought back testimony, much of which has been quite different from what you are saying. It is true that there cannot be unanimity in a society, but ...

[Escalona, interrupting] At the fourth congress we said that we do not aspire to unanimity.

[Vasquez] Yet you have a single party.

[Escalona] We have a majority.

[Vasquez] And you have a single party.

[Escalona] Of course. Why not? Our country is small, it has close ties with its party, its directorate, the revolution, and it is struggling to survive in the midst of a difficult situation.

[Vasquez] Mr. Escalona, thank you for your presence on "Panorama." I reiterate your welcome to Peru, and I hope that there will be a renewal in Cuba...

[Escalona, interrupting] (?You will not go on a work visit?)

[Vasquez] ...of that renewal or rather that 30-year permanence in Cuba.

[Escalona] We are working to improve all of this, to create greater democratic openings for our people, and I

would like to take advantage of the occasion to say that I have been very happy, and very well received in Peru. I spoke with President-elect Fujimori yesterday, and I have seen formidable things in this people which have reaffirmed my fondness and respect for Peru.

[Vasquez] Thank you and good evening.

* Belaunde on FREDEMO, Consensus

90SM0167A Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 24 Jun 90 Sunday Supplement, pp 6-7

[Interview with Fernando Belaunde Terry by Susana Vasquez; place and date not given; first three paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Excerpt] Fernando Belaunde Terry, who has served two terms as constitutional president of Peru, has said: "Now it is up to APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance], Cambio 90 [Change 90], and the communists. They are the people who created the present government, which is therefore responsible to them. It is not up to us at present." He was explaining the reasons why Accion Popular [Popular Action], the party which he leads, has decided to adopt a critical attitude toward the new government.

Belaunde stated: "The necessary conditions do not exist to develop a consensus," although he said that his party is not closing the door to that possibility. He also expressed opposition to a possible dialogue between the incoming government and the subversive groups. The archbishop of Lima has offered to use his good offices to set up such a meeting.

Regarding the trip which President-elect Fujimori will undertake, Belaunde Terry stated that such a trip may be convenient from the point of view that it shows an attitude of openness toward international organizations.

[EXPRESO] In your party's communique it is stated that Accion Popular (AP) is going to support only those measures which are in accordance with its ideas and program. Dr. Maximo San Roman, the first vice president of the incoming government, has pointed out that Cambio 90 has prepared a list of four points for the coalition government: pacification, the economic situation, agrarian development, and small industrial development. On the basis of what little is known of the program of Cambio 90, what do you think will be the position of your party?

[Belaunde Terry] Politics are not conducted with a crystal ball. In my view the program of Cambio 90 is a crystal ball. We are not snake goddesses engaged in guessing what we have not been told. Now, they are truly in office, and I agree that those categories of issues are important.

I will show you what we have done in FREDEMO [Democratic Front]. The three parties involved in FREDEMO worked on the preparation of this program. (The former president made this statement while showing us the document containing the basic foundations for a plan of government signed on 14 April 1989.) It included the document establishing the Democratic Front, the constitution of FREDEMO, and the program, "Unidos para la recuperacion del Peru" [United for the Recovery of Peru].

Then we prepared a joint document which is perfectly clear. It is a public document. It has been published in the newspapers. It was signed by me, by Luis Bedoya Reyes, and Mario Vargas Llosa, with the participation of SODE [Solidarity and Democracy]. This is a document which we could discuss. It is something concrete.

[EXPRESO] And Cambio 90 has nothing concrete so far?

[Belaunde Terry] Not as far as I know. Except for the things which they have expressed: honesty, technology, and work. This is a rigorous and concise formula, like liberty, equality, and fraternity. Am I not right?

[EXPRESO] Doctor Belaunde, the AP communique also states that the political groups which make up FREDEMO intend to maintain a parliamentary relationship.

[Belaunde Terry] We intend, that is, AP intends, to maintain a parliamentary relationship so that we may act jointly on certain questions.

[EXPRESO] However, the AP communique also states that, without diminishing the autonomy of each group....

[Belaunde Terry] That means that each party has the right to act on its own initiative. We are not going to prevent them from doing that. We have not abandoned the idea that the respective parties are autonomous.

[EXPRESO] Do you sincerely believe that such a relationship can be maintained, bearing in mind the differences which exist among the parties making up FREDEMO? There have recently been differing statements made by members of one party or another belonging to FREDEMO.

[Belaunde Terry] Well, those are small matters. However, on major questions, such as, for example, the return of Peru to the international credit system, this is a question on which we must certainly be in agreement. We must also be in agreement on everything related to the defense of human rights and the maintenance of democracy. All of these are general questions, right? Now we speak (at this point he pointed to the agreement setting up FREDEMO) of all of the activities of the state. This is a standard. The constitution is also a standard. This program is like a constitution. Thus, we have a specific point of reference. This was a plan of government. We have not been elected to government. However, the principles which are mentioned and explained here are continuing standards. That is what keeps us together. That is what we agreed upon in FREDEMO. Not what was said here or there but rather what we solemnly signed, we, the groups which created the Democratic Front.

[EXPRESO] Will you remain united, even when FREDEMO no longer legally exists, under the election law, when Doctor Fujimori is proclaimed president?

[Belaunde Terry] Even then. That is our point of view in AP. We wish, we favor maintaining a permanent relationship on major questions, without impairing the autonomy which each party must have. Now AP, having carried out an honorable mission reflecting great unselfishness, is free to develop again, and we will begin to do that very soon. There are young people in AP. I am rather old, myself.

[EXPRESO] Prominent leaders of AP, when they learned the results of the elections, stated that responsibility for national affairs does not lie only with the winners but also with the losers. However, the communique of your party now states that your party will adopt a critical attitude toward the government and will not authorize its members to accept cabinet positions in it.

[Belaunde Terry] No, because we were defeated. What they want us to do is to assume responsibility for the government. This responsibility belongs to APRA, Cambio 90, and the communists. They are the people who created this government and therefore are responsible for it. It is for them to accept responsibility. It is not up to us. We planned to govern on the basis of our plan of government (here he pointed to the program setting up FREDEMO), not with their program.

[EXPRESO] And is that a way of rejecting the consensus which Doctor Fujimori is calling for?

[Belaunde Terry] Look, the necessary conditions do not exist for a consensus.

[EXPRESO] What would such conditions include?

[Belaunde Terry] They would involve a government with very broad support, not a government with 24 percent of the votes, which is what they obtained in the first round of the elections.

[EXPRESO] Doctor, you are one of the representatives of democracy in our country, and your image is that of a very conciliatory man who has never promoted adverse or negative attitudes. With this attitude of not allowing your members to respond to the call by the president-elect, are you violating the line of conduct which you have always maintained?

[Belaunde Terry] Look, that is not what I am doing. This communique (he meant the AP communique) says something in its last paragraph which is perfectly clear: "AP hopes that the new government will be successful in acting in the best interests of the country. It anticipates that it will support measures which are in tune with its ideas and program, that is, the fundamental principles already referred to, as well as actions which, in its judgment, are worthy of support."

[EXPRESO] Does that mean that you are not closing the door in support of the government?

[Belaunde Terry] That is correct. We are not closing any doors.

[EXPRESO] What do you think of the possible inclusion of Alfonso Grados Bertorini, one of your former cabinet ministers, in the government of Doctor Fujimori?

[Belaunde Terry] Well, he is an independent personality who enjoys considerable prestige in the country. Fujimori can invite anyone he wishes to call on to serve in his cabinet. Certainly, he is going to call on the various parties. He has to go to the parties, but not to individuals.

[EXPRESO] Does that mean that Fujimori does not know what to do and that if he contacts your party...

[Belaunde Terry] No, no, no. We have made a decision within AP.

[EXPRESO] Is that a decision which you are not going to change?

[Belaunde Terry] That is correct. We will not participate in the government. Cooperating with the government is not the same thing as participating in it. For example, regarding a policy of domestic pacification, we will see what its main lines are. They may be this and that. Fine, we agree. In the case of a law on pacification, we would want to see its text. We would look at it and might accept it.

[EXPRESO] With specific reference to that matter, Monsignor Vargas Alzamora, the archbishop of Lima, has said that he could serve as a bridge, as a go- between for possible conversations between subversive groups and the incoming government.

[Belaunde Terry] Well, I do not believe that he can do it. I believe that when you are dealing with criminals, you have to do so in court. I believe that with people who have shed blood, you cannot have a discussion.

[EXPRESO] It would not work out?

[Belaunde Terry] No, I do not think so. Clearly, if there are people who have repented for what they have done, fine, let them come in. However, having a debate between the government and the subversives, who have killed other people? No. [passage omitted]

[EXPRESO] How much truth is there in the stories that you are going to call on your party members elected on the FIM [Independent Moralization Front] list to resign?

[Belaunde Terry] Well, one such AP member is Gamarra, apart from Lopez Therese, who was my deputy minister of justice. Then, in Cambio 90 there are two deputies who were members of the AP. They were asked by Cambio 90 to join it. They agreed to do so and they have left the AP.

[EXPRESO] Is there any possibility of their rejoining AP?

[Belaunde Terry] They are coming back from that side. I do not wish to take anything away from anybody. However, these are people who have been with us and do not feel that they have left us. Including them, there will be 31 AP deputies.

* Deteriorating Infrastructure Described

90SM0167B Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 23 Jun 90 p A4

[Excerpt]**Diagnosis of the Crisis in the Construction Industry**

Mario Suito, president of the Peruvian Chamber of Construction, recently visited Doctor Fujimori, the president-elect. In this connection we asked Suito about the present state of the highways in Peru.

He stated: "Only 12 percent of the road network is in good condition. About 38 percent is in fair condition. About 50 percent of the network is impassable and is dangerous to vehicles. Half of the highway network is in poor condition. The total highway network includes about 70,000 kilometers of roads. About 35,000 kilometers are in poor condition."

Housing Shortage

Our discussion did not cover the visit which Suito made to the president elect. However, it was a useful discussion, covering the following points:

- How would you describe the housing drama in statistical terms?
- There is an overall, national shortage of one million homes. To deal with this shortage in 10 years, it will be necessary to build 100,000 homes per year. However, as the population is growing from year to year, it will be necessary to build an additional 130,000 homes per year to deal with this increase due to growth. The total number of new homes needed is 230,000 per year.
- Is enough drinking water available?
- The immediate requirements for drinking water, as far as Metropolitan Lima is concerned, should be dealt with by maintaining or rehabilitating the existing 300 shaft wells and completing the drilling of 60 shaft wells now under way. Furthermore, it will be necessary to speed up the Atarjea project and collect water in the reservoirs of the hydroectric projects of Huinco, Carioso-Moyopampa, and Biandini-Huampani on the far side of La Atarjea. The water shortage is due to the fact that the construction of the Yuracmayo reservoir and the transfer of the Mantaro River has not been completed, in addition to the impoundment of 250 million cubic meters from the estuaries of the Rimac, Chillon, and Lurin Rivers, as well as the inter-connected delta of the Marcapomacocha River.

Needs in the Health Sector

Suito said that "the Ministry of Health, with its 130 hospitals, maintains 53 percent of the beds available for the sick. It also operates 74 percent of the health centers and 94 percent of the health stations. This system is deteriorating, experiencing problems with its machinery, operating rooms, and the room, kitchen, and laundry service areas. About 40 percent of the medical instruments are no longer useful.

Strikes and the lack of maintenance are worsening the problem.

Shortage of Electrical Service

CAPECO [Peruvian Chamber of Construction] is the institution which includes all companies associated with the construction industry. Therefore, we asked Suito about the problems causing the electricity shortage. He said:

- The installed potential in the country amounts to 3,000 megawatts. Of this total 2,500 megawatts are accounted for by companies holding concessions (such as Electro-Lima and Hidrandina), while 500 megawatts are produced by mining companies.
- This potential takes care of 40 percent of the country. The remaining 60 percent is not serviced because there is no distribution network to cover it.
- The increase in demand on an overall, national basis is between five and six percent annually. This makes it essential to invest $300 to $400 million annually, merely to take care of this increase.
- Lima has a shortage of 200 megawatts. At the national level, the shortage in the interconnected system is twice as much, or 400 megawatts.
- Terrorism has led to the loss of 100 megawatts of installed, generating capacity, which are included in the overall shortage of 400 megawatts.

Bad Condition of Bridges

Suito commented as follows on the bridges:

- Because of terrorism and neglect between 20 and 30 bridges in nine departments are structurally weakened. This causes very high transportation expenditures because longer routes are required to reach the various destinations.
- How can the construction industry be stimulated?
- First, by returning the country to the financial world and obtaining loans from international organizations. At present no loans are being extended. Then, by giving confidence to private investors to place their money in this kind of activity.

Venezuela

Perez Swears in New Ministers, Leaves for Peru

PA2707194590 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1538 GMT 27 Jul 90

[All names and titles as received]

[Text] Caracas, 27 Jul (EFE)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez today swore in eight new ministers from the reorganization of his Cabinet which does not affect those responsible for the economic reform policy implemented a year and a half ago.

The main novelty in Perez' new Cabinet is the inclusion of a National Commission Against the Illicit Use of Drugs [Comision Nacional Contra el Uso Ilicito de Drogas—Conacui], with ministerial rank. It is headed by Regulo Villegas, an expert in the struggle against drug trafficking.

President Perez has said on various occasions that his government will not allow Colombian drug traffickers to use Venezuela as a base of operations, following the Colombian Government's successful effort against the drug cartels.

The other important new aspects of this Cabinet reshuffle is the incorporation into the government of center-rightist politician Vladimir Gessen at the head of the Ministry of Tourism. Gessen is the former presidential candidate of the New Democratic Generation Party, which is interpreted as a strengthening of the government's neoliberal line.

The remainder of the new ministers are: Armando Duran, secretary of the Presidency; Roberto Smith, minister of transport and communications; Jesus Moreno Guacaran, minister of justice; Jonathan Coles, minister of agriculture and livestock; Jesus Carmona, minister of relations with the congress; and Luis Vezga, minister of information.

Perez, who swore in the new ministers an hour before leaving for Lima to attend the inauguration of Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, gave no explanation for the changes.

Political circles have stated that the changes will not be well-received in important sectors of the leadershp of the ruling Democratic Action Party, controlled by supporters of former President Jaime Lusinchi (1984-1989), who are engaged in a confrontation with Perez in which each side has accused the other of political corruption.

Remaining in the Cabinet are those responsible for the economic reform policy in line with IMF recommendations: Miguel Rodriguez, minister of coordination and planning; Roberto Pocaterra, minister of economy; and Moises Naim, minister of development.

Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo, one of Perez' closest aides, also remains in the Cabinet.

Democratic Action Discusses Cabinet Changes

PA2707155290 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] In today's meeting, the National Executive Committee of Democratic Action [AD] discussed the government's cabinet changes and the party's internal situation.

The top AD authorities analyzed the changes that will take place in some state ministries and enterprises. The people who were going to be appointed to the important posts had been agreed on with the country's president during a meeting held the night of 25 July.

Another point discussed by the AD leaders was the formation of a national directors' committee to appoint on 10 August the people who will form part of the electoral commission.

Regarding internal AD conflicts that have been aired in the media, 14 members of the executive committee asked for the floor to discuss statements by Antonio Ledesma [not further identified]. The debates were heated becauses some members supported him and others opposed him.

They finally decided to hold a special meeting with the president to decide how party-government relations should be handled. The conclusion was that the polemics must be lowered.

[Begin AD Secretary General Humbertio Celli recording] I want to ask all the AD leaders to stop making public statements passing judgment on the behavior of other party members. I ask fellow party militants to stop the self-destruction of AD. [end recording]

The AD National Executive Committee meeting will continue 27 July. It is expected that Deputy Luis Emilio Rondon will participate, present some evidence to the Committee, and report his findings on investigations he has carried out in some state enterprises.

Protests Over Fare Hikes Continue in Maracaibo

PA2707132990 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1254 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Caracas, 27 Jul (DPA)—The protests over the bus fare hike have intensified in the city of Maracaibo, State (province) of Zulia, resulting in 500 persons arrested, the Caracas newspapers reported today.

Thousands of Zulia University students, armed with sticks and stones, clashed with policemen in the downtown sector of the capital of Zulia. People who were not part of the student movement took advantage of the situation to loot commercial establishments.

The situation forced the regional government to order the police occupation of the heart of the city, bringing to mind the 27 February incidents last year when social turmoil left more than 1,000 dead.

Contrasted with Maracaibo, the Venezuelan capital was calm after the media reported last weekend that the fuel increase had been postponed.

For several months the national government has been contemplating an increase in the price of gasoline. However, the measure—which has been demanded by the

International Monetary Fund to channel new loans—has not been taken in view of the grave social consequences it could cause.

30 Students Injured in Maracaibo Disturbances

PA2807031290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0112 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Caracas, 27 Jul (EFE)—Approximately 30 students were injured today during violent disturbances in Maracaibo, a petroleum city 750 km west of Caracas. The students were protesting an increase in fuel prices and bus fares.

A student spokesman of the University of Zulia stated that at least 30 students were injured, three of them seriously, during clashes with the police.

The incidents began during the morning in the center of the city when the students closed off streets. After the intervention of the police, the students set fire to a van of the Urban Development Ministry and three food-distribution trucks. They also attacked the Zulia lottery building and hurled rocks and Molotov cocktails at the riot police.

The police fired birdshot and used tear gas to dislodge the students from strategic locations.

Osvaldo Alvarez, Christian Democratic governor of Zulia State, said he will ask the Armed Forces to intervene if the disturbances do not stop.

Today's incidents follow the ones that occurred this week in Maracaibo, Barquisimeto, Caracas, and Merida.

Government Announces Increase in Fuel Prices

PA2807020690 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0007 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] The national government today officially announced the new fuel prices in the Venezuelan market. The measures will be implemented effective tomorrow, 28 July, and will remain in effect until December. The gasoline price per liter will initially increase by 15 centimos, and its price will be adjusted every month until it has reached a total increase of 90 centimos a liter at year's end. The price of diesel will be increased to 1 bolivar per liter tomorrow, and it will increase by 20 centimos every month until the end of the year.

The increases are aimed at curbing the excessively high and irrational consumption of fuel which has made the oil industry's supply of this product on the national market unprofitable from a financial point of view. In addition, this nonrenewable resource, which has a high yield in sales at international markets, is being lost and squandered.

Consequently, the authorities consider it necessary to issue an appeal to the Venezuelan people, urging them to strengthen our most important industry and to avoid the misuse and squandering of such a vital source of energy, which is also an important part of the country's revenues for carrying out social and economic growth programs.

The measure will be implemented in a way that will minimize its impact on the Venezuelan people's purchasing power and pocketbooks. This is why the government waited until the public transportation policy was prepared and until bonds and compensations were implemented for the low-income sectors.

The increase will become effective at 0000 on Saturday, 28 July, as follows: A 15-centimo increase per liter of gasoline will be implemented every month until reaching an overall increase of 90 centimos by December, when the measure will end. The price of gasoline will be set at three bolivares and 65 centimos at year's end. Diesel fuel will also be increased effective tomorrow—1 bolivar per liter—and it will suffer monthly increases of six centimos per liter until December, when the measure will end. Both products will register an accumulated increase of 30 percent by year's end, and the revenues resulting from these increases will be 900 million bolivares.

Government Condemns Coup Attempt in Trinidad

PA2807151090 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1414 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Caracas, 28 Jul (DPA)—The Venezuelan Government today condemned the coup attempt staged last night by a group black Muslims, headed by Yasin Abu Bakr. The communique noted that the Venezuelan Government has learned "with deep concern of the developments taking place in Trinidad and Tobago." Venezuela also reiterated its support of the principles of participative democracy and "strongly rejects any attempt to interrupt the constitutional flow, and notes it is not prepared to recognize any regime arising out of the disregard for the authorities constituted as a result of the will of the people of Trinidad and Tobago."

The communique stressed that the Venezuelan Government supported the security mechanisms and agreements established by the members of the Caribbean community and "trusts that said mechanisms will ensure the continuity of democratic order in Trinidad and Tobago."

Information Agreement Signed With Colombia

PA2907160490 Caracas Venezolana de Televison Canal 8 in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] During the ninth meeting of the national commissions on Colombian-Venezuelan border affairs, an agreement was signed for the exchange of official information through telefax. This agreement is the result of a recent resolution signed by the presidents of the Andean Group during their last meeting in Machupicchu. In short, this document provides for the exchange of information among news agencies through the new teletext system that is being implemented between Venezuela and Colombia.